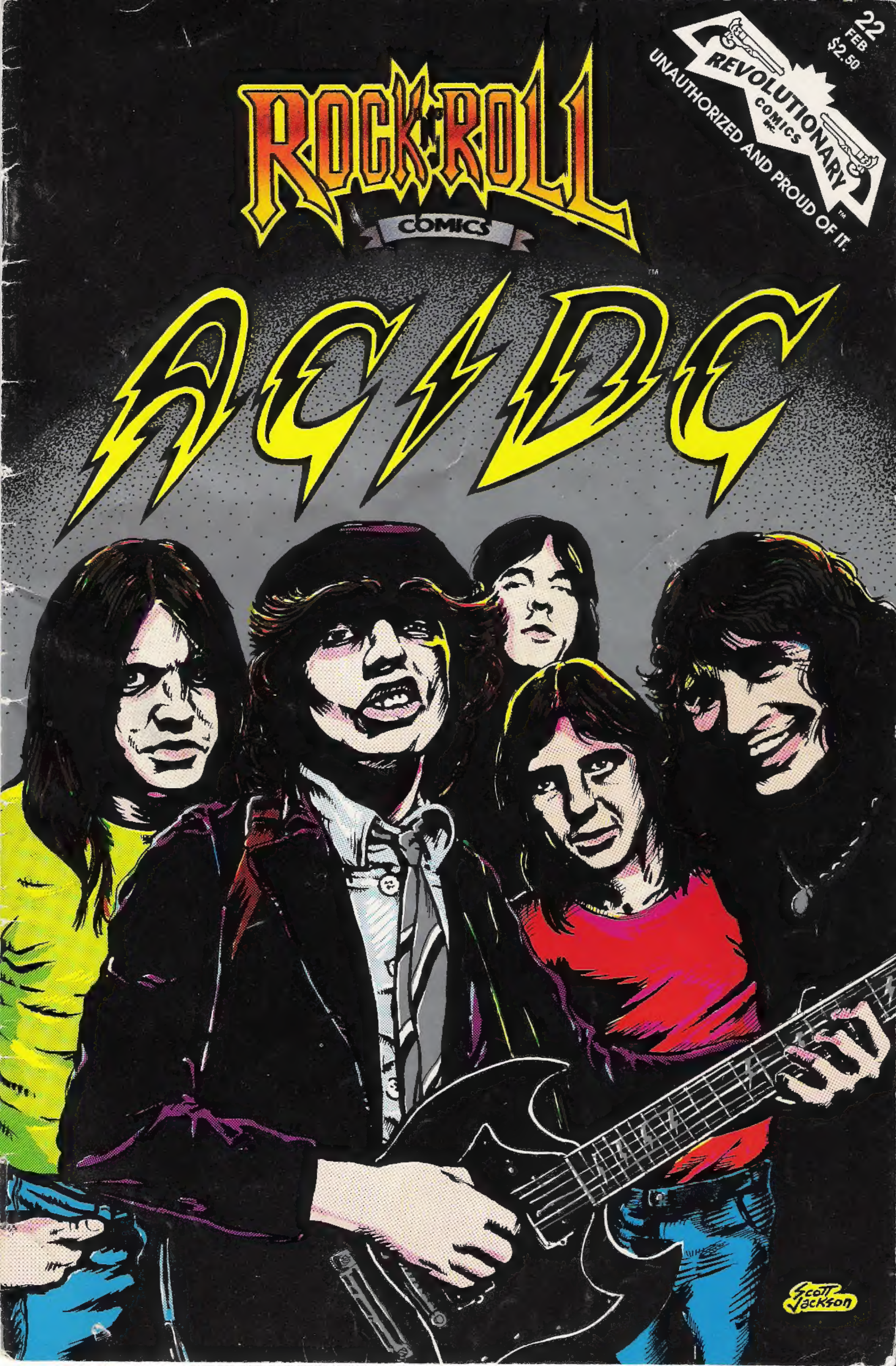

22
FEB
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REVOLUTIONARY COMICS INC.
UNAUTHORIZED AND PROUD OF IT.
ROCK'N'ROLL
COMICS
AC/DC
Scott Jackson

JUDAS PRIEST IS UNAMERICAN!

BY Todd Loren

In this country, you can sue anyone for anything anytime. Even if you don't have a good case. It's called harrassment, and there's no law against it. It's a ploy which the big guys have been using on the small guys for years, and it works very well. It's intimidation, and the only way to stop it is to fight it. Of course, if you've got a little comic book company, with rather flimsy support from the comic book industry, and you're going up against someone with $400 million, the idea of fighting begins to seem rather futile. As I stated last issue, there's still a restraining order out which prohibits us from producing ANY comics about certain groups, including one (Judas Priest), which has fought in court to protect the very rights which they are denying us. I called up the management of Judas Priest. I spoke to a woman by the name of Ann Weldon. She informed me that she had seen the books that we had published, and she didn't think the group "wanted to be associated with them." But they ARE associated with us- by participating in this blackmailing of our distributors which resulted in the banning of our books, they have already associated themselves with us! That's right I said blackmail. When you call up someone and say :" Do this or else", that's blackmail. And that's precisely what happened. Yet for some strange and bizarre reason, Priest doesn't mind being written up in magazines like Circus and Hit Parader. Of course, we all know the record companies have these publications under their thumb. If for no other reason other than the fact that they depend on the industry for advertising dollars, among many other things. I would like to take this opportunity to make this

ROCK N' ROLL COMICS PLEDGE OF PRINCIPLES: ***WE WILL NEVER ACCEPT ADS FROM THE RECORD INDUSTRY.*** As long as I am publisher of Rock N' Roll Comics, you will never see advertisements for any of the bands featured here. I'd like to see another rock-related magazine make that pledge. How about it, Guccione? It's a shame about Spin magazine. They really could have some credibility, if they'd just back up their pose with a little power. Show the industry that they don't OWN YOU! If you're so damn independent, PROVE IT!

MTV: RECORD INDUSTRY PAWNS

In all the time I've been publishing this book, I've only made one call to solicit ad space. It was to MTV. I figured "Yeah, MTV understands us. We fit their image. They should advertise in Rock N' Roll Comics." And you know what? They agreed with me. The guy in charge of promotion at MTV told me that he thought I was 100% right. He thought that MTV should advertise in Rock N' Roll Comics, and that it would be just the right thing for their image, that of a rebellious network that isn't afraid to take chances to be on the cutting edge. And they would've done it, too. You know why they didn't? Pressure from the record industry. The big boys in the corporate offices sent word down: if you advertise in Rock N' Roll Comics, you may not get as many interviews as you used to. And other little "favors" may be harder to come by as well. So this is what I was told, in so many words. I pretty much told the guy that I thought he was full of shit (very politely, mind you!). But you certainly can't expect one person to stand up against many. It simply isn't done. After all, they do have loans to pay. Stockholders to answer to. We can't expect people to fight for what they believe in, it's just not the way things are in the 90's. Frankly, I'm amazed he was honest enough to say he liked the idea in the first place, knowing full well that the big boys wouldn't like the idea. Peace.

COMING UP: #23- LIVING COLOUR/RED HOT CHILI PEPPERS, #24- ANTHRAX/FAITH NO MORE, #19- PUBLIC ENEMY/ 2 LIVE CREW, #20-QUEENSRYCHE/ TESLA (#19 & 20 ARE BEING RELEASED OUT OF ORDER DUE TO A SOLICITATION SCREW-UP) ALSO AVAILABLE, DEC- STICKBOY #4, JAN-***THE BEATLES EXPERIENCE #1*** (HONEST, YOKO, YOU'LL LIKE IT!)

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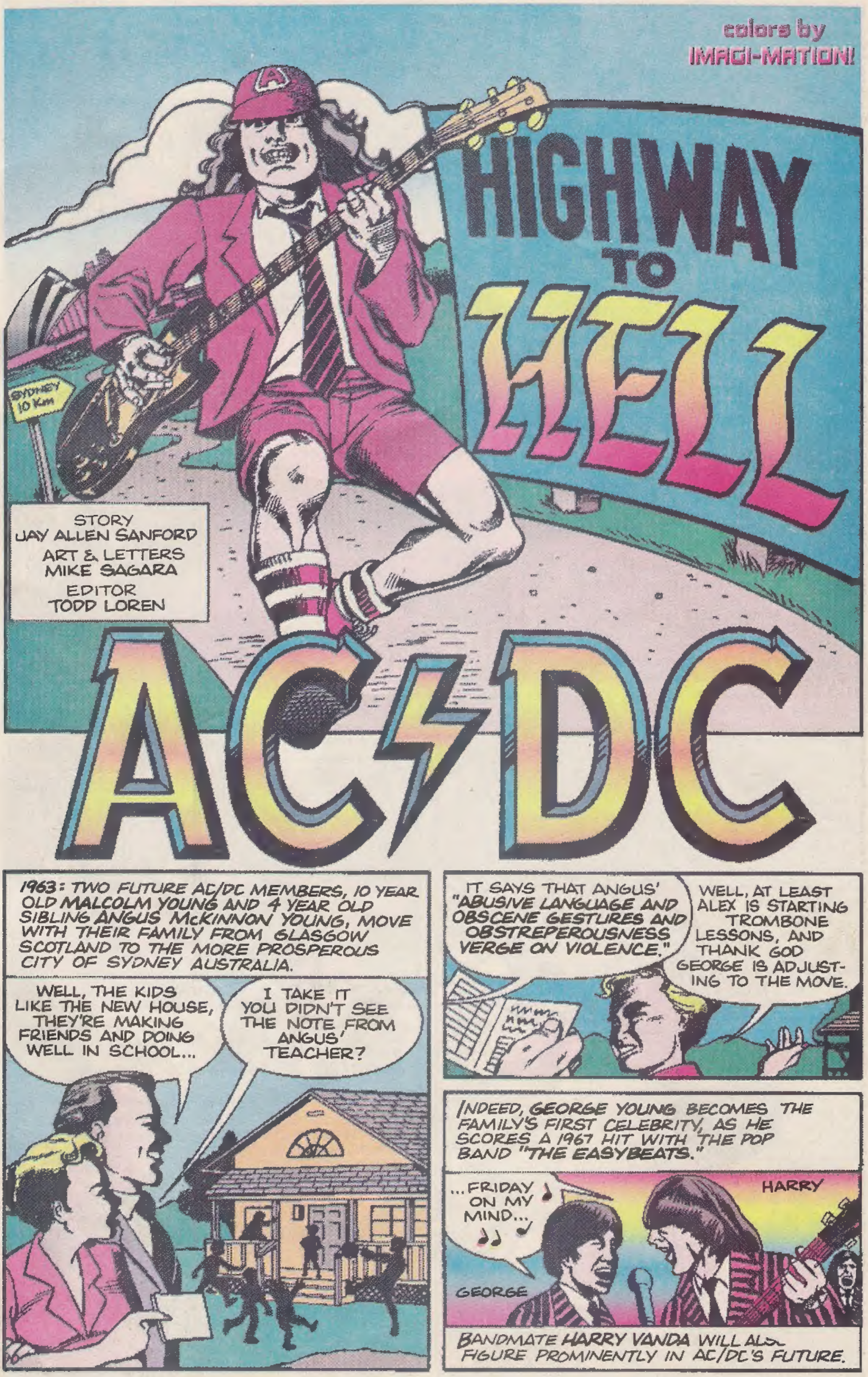
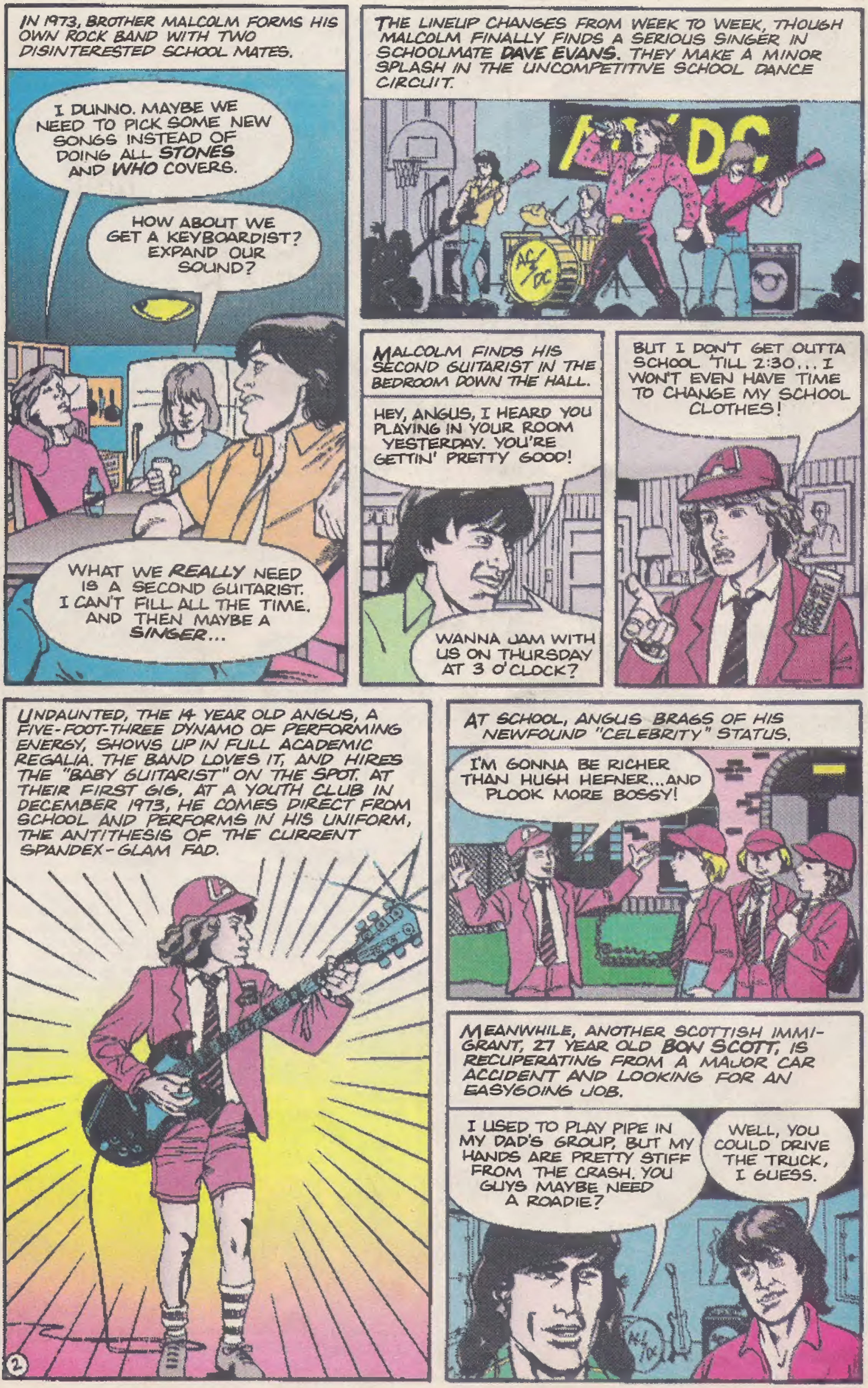
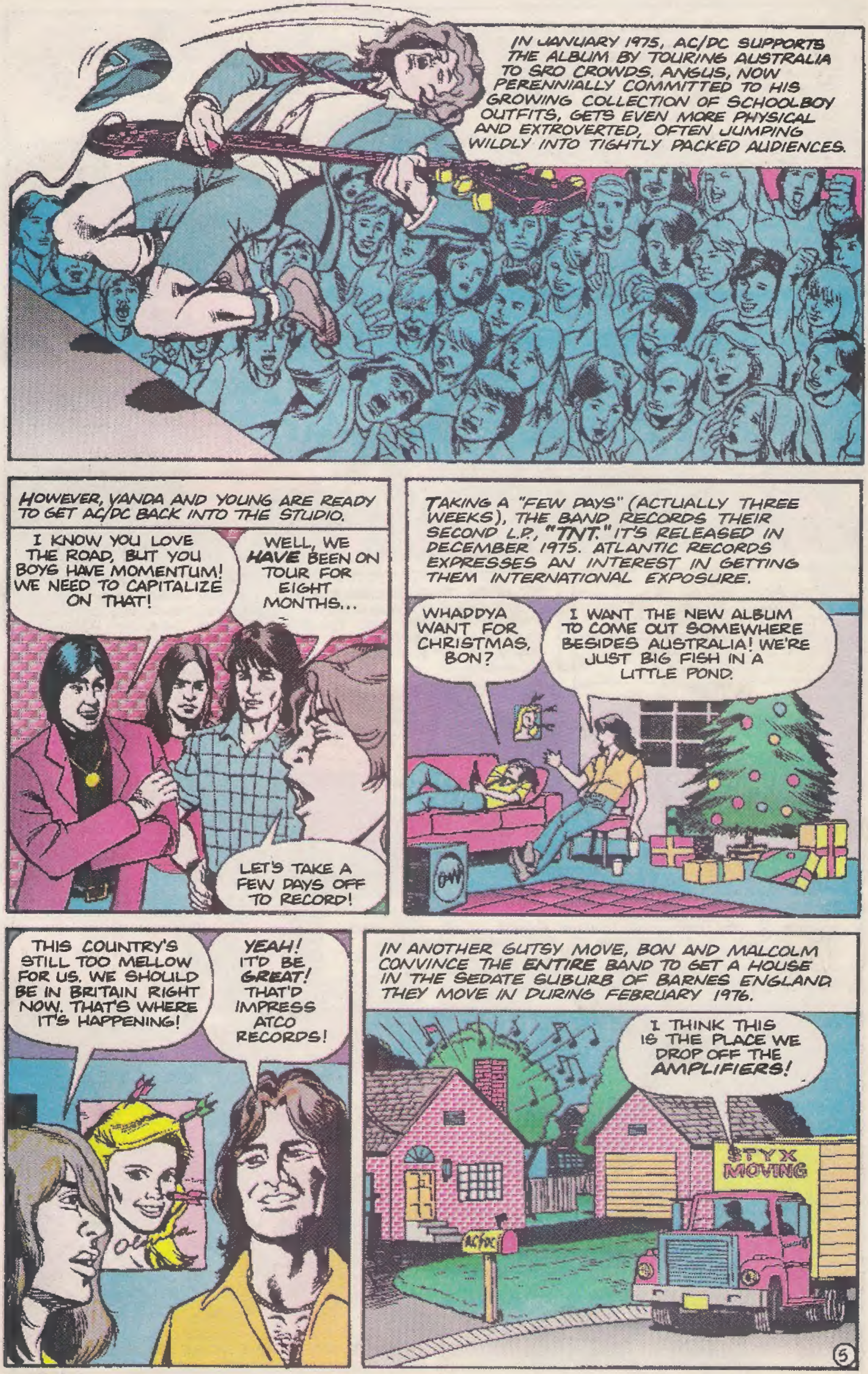
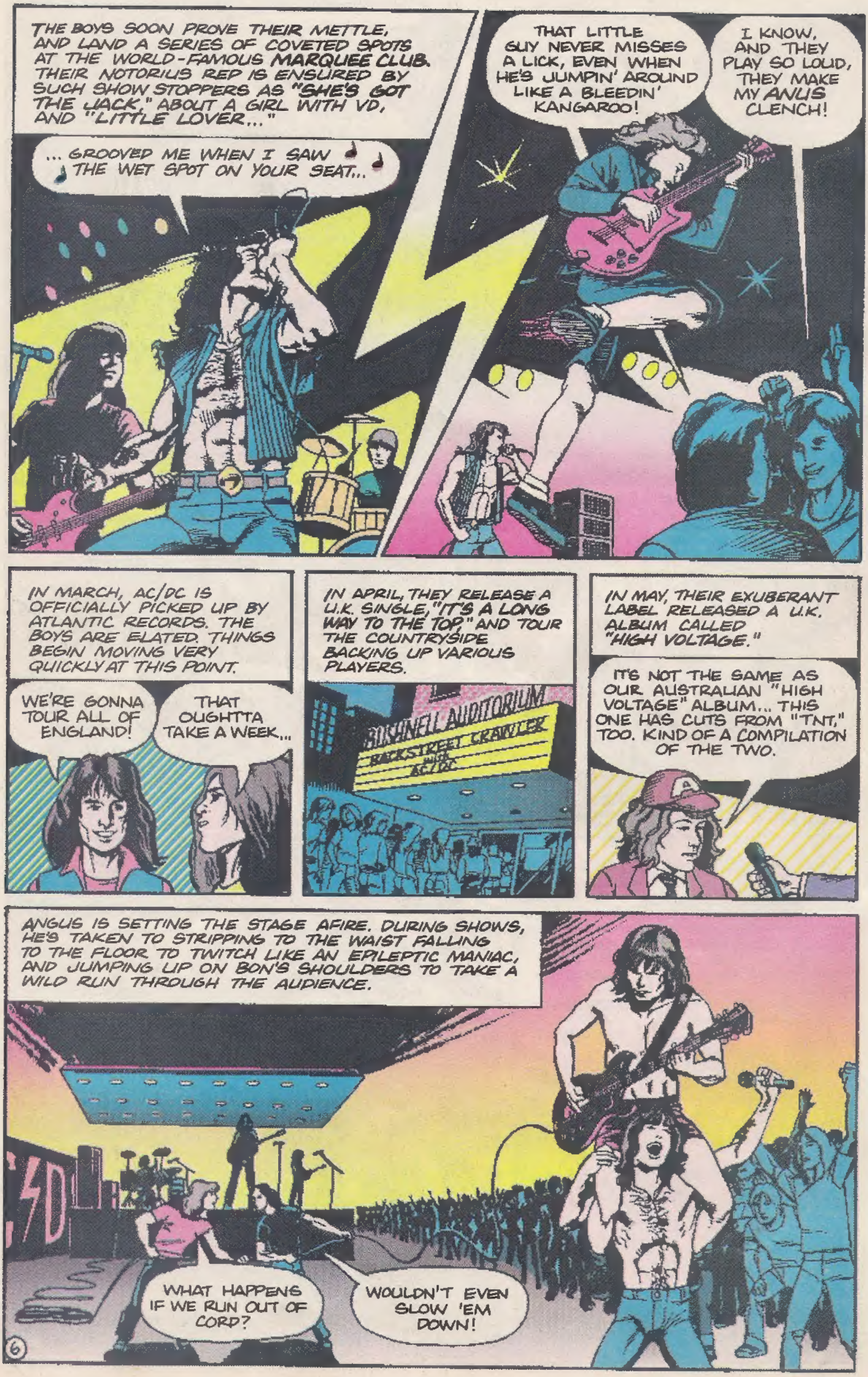

colors by
IMAGI-MATION!
HIGHWAY TO HELL
SYDNEY 10 Km
STORY
JAY ALLEN SANFORD
ART & LETTERS
MIKE SAGARA
EDITOR
TODD LOREN
AC/DC
1963: TWO FUTURE AC/DC MEMBERS, 10 YEAR OLD MALCOLM YOUNG AND 4 YEAR OLD SIBLING ANGUS McKINNON YOUNG, MOVE WITH THEIR FAMILY FROM GLASGOW SCOTLAND TO THE MORE PROSPEROUS CITY OF SYDNEY AUSTRALIA.
WELL, THE KIDS LIKE THE NEW HOUSE, THEY'RE MAKING FRIENDS AND DOING WELL IN SCHOOL...
I TAKE IT YOU DIDN'T SEE THE NOTE FROM ANGUS' TEACHER?
IT SAYS THAT ANGUS' "ABUSIVE LANGUAGE AND OBSCENE GESTURES AND OBSTREPEROUSNESS VERGE ON VIOLENCE."
WELL, AT LEAST ALEX IS STARTING TROMBONE LESSONS, AND THANK GOD GEORGE IS ADJUSTING TO THE MOVE.
INDEED, GEORGE YOUNG BECOMES THE FAMILY'S FIRST CELEBRITY, AS HE SCORES A 1967 HIT WITH THE POP BAND "THE EASYBEATS."
...FRIDAY ON MY MIND...
HARRY
GEORGE
BANDMATE HARRY VANDA WILL ALSO FIGURE PROMINENTLY IN AC/DC'S FUTURE.


IN 1973, BROTHER MALCOLM FORMS HIS OWN ROCK BAND WITH TWO DISINTERESTED SCHOOL MATES.
I DUNNO. MAYBE WE NEED TO PICK SOME NEW SONGS INSTEAD OF DOING ALL STONES AND WHO COVERS.
HOW ABOUT WE GET A KEYBOARDIST? EXPAND OUR SOUND?
WHAT WE REALLY NEED IS A SECOND GUITARIST. I CAN'T FILL ALL THE TIME. AND THEN MAYBE A SINGER...
THE LINEUP CHANGES FROM WEEK TO WEEK, THOUGH MALCOLM FINALLY FINDS A SERIOUS SINGER IN SCHOOLMATE DAVE EVANS. THEY MAKE A MINOR SPLASH IN THE UNCOMPETITIVE SCHOOL DANCE CIRCUIT.
AC/DC
MALCOLM FINDS HIS SECOND GUITARIST IN THE BEDROOM DOWN THE HALL.
HEY, ANGUS, I HEARD YOU PLAYING IN YOUR ROOM YESTERDAY. YOU'RE GETTIN' PRETTY GOOD!
WANNA JAM WITH US ON THURSDAY AT 3 O'CLOCK?
BUT I DON'T GET OUTTA SCHOOL 'TILL 2:30... I WON'T EVEN HAVE TIME TO CHANGE MY SCHOOL CLOTHES!
UNDAUNTED, THE 14 YEAR OLD ANGUS, A FIVE-FOOT-THREE DYNAMO OF PERFORMING ENERGY, SHOWS UP IN FULL ACADEMIC REGALIA. THE BAND LOVES IT, AND HIRES THE "BABY GUITARIST" ON THE SPOT. AT THEIR FIRST GIG, AT A YOUTH CLUB IN DECEMBER 1973, HE COMES DIRECT FROM SCHOOL AND PERFORMS IN HIS UNIFORM, THE ANTITHESIS OF THE CURRENT SPANDEX-GLAM FAD.
AT SCHOOL, ANGUS BRAGS OF HIS NEWFOUND "CELEBRITY" STATUS.
I'M GONNA BE RICHER THAN HUGH HEFNER...AND PLOOK MORE BOSSY!
MEANWHILE, ANOTHER SCOTTISH IMMIGRANT, 27 YEAR OLD BON SCOTT, IS RECUPERATING FROM A MAJOR CAR ACCIDENT AND LOOKING FOR AN EASYGOING JOB.
I USED TO PLAY PIPE IN MY DAD'S GROUP, BUT MY HANDS ARE PRETTY STIFF FROM THE CRASH. YOU GUYS MAYBE NEED A ROADIE?
WELL, YOU COULD DRIVE THE TRUCK, I GUESS.

ESTABLISHING A CLOSE CAMARADERIE WITH THE YOUNG BROTHERS, BON IS QUICK TO DISMISS THE CONTRIBUTION TO THE BAND OF SINGER DAVE EVANS. MALCOLM'S SENTIMENTS ARE SIMILAR.
THIS GUY'S PANTS ARE SO TIGHT, WHEN HE FARTS YOU CAN SEE IT RUN DOWN HIS LEG!
DO YOU GUYS REALLY WANT A GARY GLITTER CLONE FOR A SINGER?
ON A WHIM, BON AUDITIONS AS A SINGER. HIS SANDPAPER, BASSO VOICE WINS OVER THE BAND, WHILE HIS DANGEROUS TATTOOS AND CUSTOMARY BOA CONSTRICTOR PROVIDE AN EXCELLENT VISUAL COUNTERPOINT TO ANGUS' SPASTIC "BABY GUITARIST" ACT.
AFTER DUMPING DAVE AND RECRUITING BON, THE ENTIRE GROUP MAKES A DARING MOVE TO MELBOURNE IN MARCH 1974, HOPING TO ATTRACT BETTER GIGS. THE BASSIST AND DRUMMER, HOWEVER, WANDER OFF IN PURSUIT OF OTHER INTERESTS.
DESPONDENT, MALCOLM, BON AND ANGUS ARE READY TO RETURN, DEFEATED, TO SYDNEY.
BUT AT A MELBOURNE ROCK CLUB...
ANGUS, THIS IS ROCK! VANILLA FUDGE, CREAM... I'M GLAD THOSE TWO QUIT AC/DC. THEY WERE PUSSIES ANYWAY.
HEY, YOU GUYS ARE IN A BAND, TOO? I'M MARK EVANS. I PLAY BASS AND I PLAY IT LOUD!
I'M A DRUMMER. NAME'S PHIL. PHIL RUDD.
...YOU JUST KEEP ME HANGIN' ON...
ON THE FOLLOWING NIGHT, THE TWO MELBOURNE NATIVES JAM WITH AC/DC'S REMAINING TRIO IN THE BAND'S RENTED FLAT (ON THE FINAL NIGHT BEFORE THE NEXT RENT CHECK COMES DUE!).
OKAY, YOU GUYS WANNA BE IN AC/DC? WE CAN GET DATES AT THE PUBS ON OUR REP ALONE.
IF YOU'VE GOT PAYIN' GIGS, I'M IN, MALCOLM.
ME TOO. HOW LONG SHOULD WE PRACTICE BEFORE PLAYING OUT?
ABOUT TEN MORE MINUTES! WHEN WE LOST THE OTHER TWO GUYS, WE WERE GONNA SKIP OUTTA TOWN. BUT OUR MANAGER'S WAITIN' FOR US AT THE TWILIGHT ZONE!
LET'S ROCK!
AC/DC

AS THE END OF '74 APPROACHES, THE GROUP IS TOURING TO FAIR-SIZED CROWDS ALL OVER AUSTRALIA, BUILDING THEIR REPUTATION AS FORMIDABLE HEAVY HITTERS AND GETTING ATTENTION FROM THE ROCK PRESS DOWN-UNDER.
DO YOU THINK YOU'LL BE AS POPULAR AS, SAY, THE LITTLE RIVER BAND OR OLIVIA NEWTON-JOHN?
WHO? ARE YOU KIDDING, MAN? WE'RE GONNA BE BIGGER THAN THE STONES!
AND LOUDER!
AND RICHER!
AND BETTER LOOKIN'!
RE-ENTER ANGUS AND MALCOLM'S BROTHER, GEORGE. IMPRESSED WITH THE BOYS' SOUND, HE CALLS HIS OTHER FORMER-EASYBEAT CO-HORT, HARRY VANDA.
HARRY, I KNOW THEY'RE FAMILY, BUT BELIEVE ME... THEY'RE GOOD! LIKE SABBATH, OR EVEN LED ZEPPELIN, THESE BOYS CAN ROCK!
VANDA AND YOUNG RUN A PROMOTION FIRM, ALBERT PRODUCTIONS.
LISTEN, MALCOLM, IF YOU GUYS CAN COME UP WITH MORE ORIGINAL MATERIAL, I'LL BET ALBERT PRODUCTIONS CAN GET YOU RECORDED AND SELL A MILLION DAMN COPIES!
WELL, ANGUS, BON AND ME DO HAVE A FEW OLD DITTIES WE CAN DUST OFF...
THE FIRST SMALL-PRESS L.P. IS CALLED HIGH VOLTAGE, AND IS RELEASED IN DECEMBER 1974, BUT ONLY IN AUSTRALIA.
WELL, WE BROKE 70,000 COPIES SOLD, BON!
SO THIS IS FAME! THIS IS FUCKIN' GREAT! I'VE ALREADY BONED TWICE AS MANY SHIELAS AS ANGUS... BEATS THE HELL OUTTA MY GIG WITH THE MILITARY!
YOU!?! YOU WERE A BLOODY WARRIOR?
WELL, ACTUALLY I SPENT THE TWO YEARS IN CONFINEMENT. ASSAULT CHARGES. FUGGIN' TRUMPED UP, WASN'T IT?
THEY RELEASED ME EVENTUALLY, SAYIN' I WAS "SOCIALLY MALADJUSTED."
NOW I'M ABOUT TO BECOME THE IDOL O' MILLIONS.
WELL, THOUSANDS ANYWAY!
BON'S FIRST ESTIMATE WOULD ACTUALLY PROVE MORE PROPHETIC!


IN JANUARY 1975, AC/DC SUPPORTS THE ALBUM BY TOURING AUSTRALIA TO SRO CROWDS. ANGUS, NOW PERENNIALLY COMMITTED TO HIS GROWING COLLECTION OF SCHOOLBOY OUTFITS, GETS EVEN MORE PHYSICAL AND EXTROVERTED, OFTEN JUMPING WILDLY INTO TIGHTLY PACKED AUDIENCES.
HOWEVER, VANDA AND YOUNG ARE READY TO GET AC/DC BACK INTO THE STUDIO.
I KNOW YOU LOVE THE ROAD, BUT YOU BOYS HAVE MOMENTUM! WE NEED TO CAPITALIZE ON THAT!
WELL, WE HAVE BEEN ON TOUR FOR EIGHT MONTHS...
LET'S TAKE A FEW DAYS OFF TO RECORD!
TAKING A "FEW DAYS" (ACTUALLY THREE WEEKS), THE BAND RECORDS THEIR SECOND L.P., "TNT." IT'S RELEASED IN DECEMBER 1975. ATLANTIC RECORDS EXPRESSES AN INTEREST IN GETTING THEM INTERNATIONAL EXPOSURE.
WHADDYA WANT FOR CHRISTMAS, BON?
I WANT THE NEW ALBUM TO COME OUT SOMEWHERE BESIDES AUSTRALIA! WE'RE JUST BIG FISH IN A LITTLE POND.
THIS COUNTRY'S STILL TOO MELLOW FOR US. WE SHOULD BE IN BRITAIN RIGHT NOW. THAT'S WHERE IT'S HAPPENING!
YEAH! IT'D BE GREAT! THAT'D IMPRESS ATCO RECORDS!
IN ANOTHER GUTSY MOVE, BON AND MALCOLM CONVINCE THE ENTIRE BAND TO GET A HOUSE IN THE SEDATE SUBURB OF BARNES ENGLAND. THEY MOVE IN DURING FEBRUARY 1976.
I THINK THIS IS THE PLACE WE DROP OFF THE AMPLIFIERS!
STYX MOVING
AC/DC



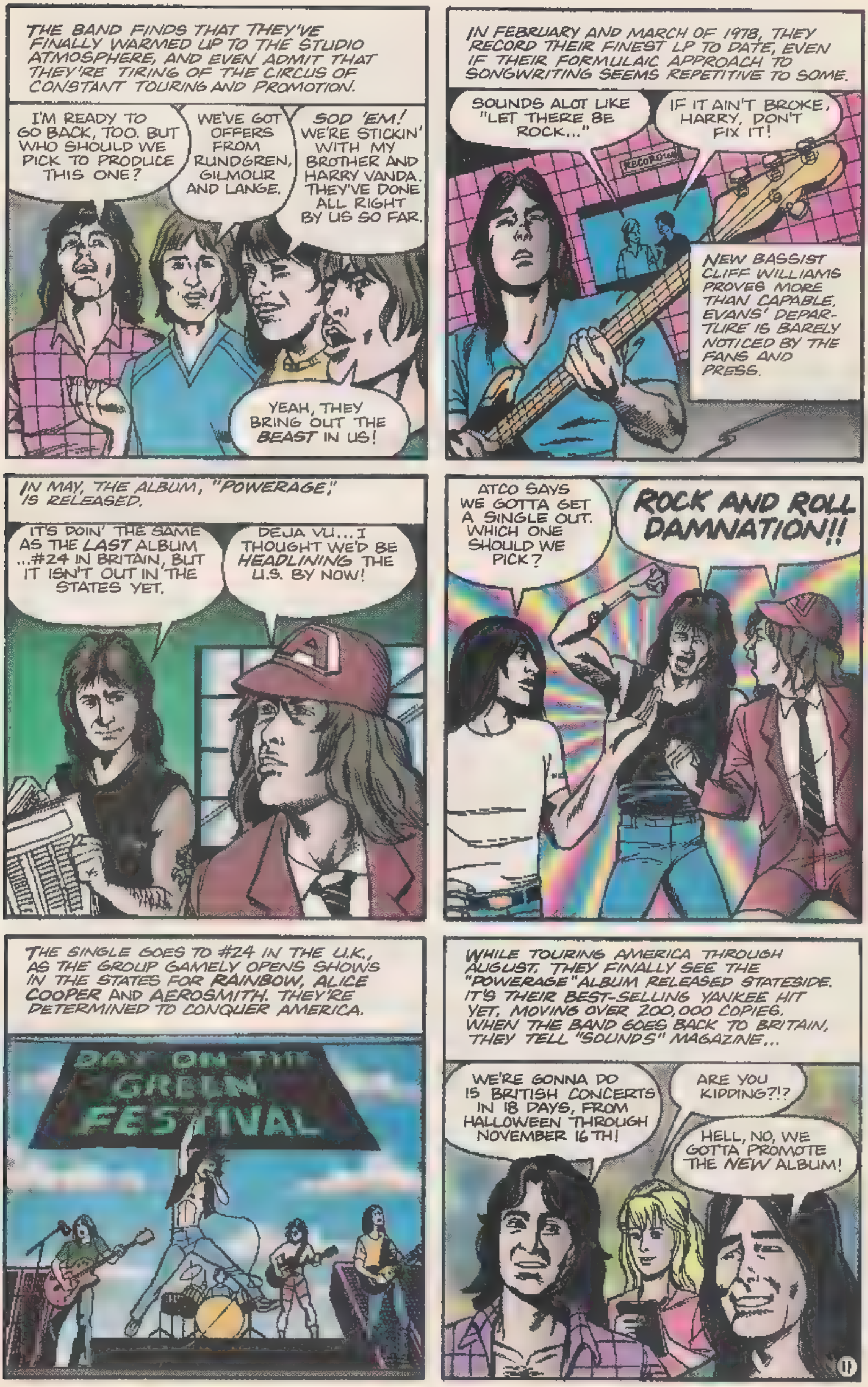
THE BOYS SOON PROVE THEIR METTLE, AND LAND A SERIES OF COVETED SPOTS AT THE WORLD-FAMOUS MARQUEE CLUB. THEIR NOTORIUS REP IS ENSURED BY SUCH SHOW STOPPERS AS "SHE'S GOT THE JACK," ABOUT A GIRL WITH VD, AND "LITTLE LOVER..."
... GROOVED ME WHEN I SAW THE WET SPOT ON YOUR SEAT...
THAT LITTLE GUY NEVER MISSES A LICK, EVEN WHEN HE'S JUMPIN' AROUND LIKE A BLEEDIN' KANGAROO!
I KNOW, AND THEY PLAY SO LOUD, THEY MAKE MY ANUS CLENCH!
IN MARCH, AC/DC IS OFFICIALLY PICKED UP BY ATLANTIC RECORDS. THE BOYS ARE ELATED. THINGS BEGIN MOVING VERY QUICKLY AT THIS POINT.
WE'RE GONNA TOUR ALL OF ENGLAND!
THAT OUGHTTA TAKE A WEEK...
IN APRIL, THEY RELEASE A U.K. SINGLE, "IT'S A LONG WAY TO THE TOP," AND TOUR THE COUNTRYSIDE BACKING UP VARIOUS PLAYERS.
BUSHNELL AUDITORIUM
BACKSTREET CRAWLER
WITH
AC/DC
IN MAY, THEIR EXUBERANT LABEL RELEASED A U.K. ALBUM CALLED "HIGH VOLTAGE."
IT'S NOT THE SAME AS OUR AUSTRALIAN "HIGH VOLTAGE" ALBUM... THIS ONE HAS CUTS FROM "TNT," TOO. KIND OF A COMPILATION OF THE TWO.
ANGUS IS SETTING THE STAGE AFIRE. DURING SHOWS, HE'S TAKEN TO STRIPPING TO THE WAIST FALLING TO THE FLOOR TO TWITCH LIKE AN EPILEPTIC MANIAC, AND JUMPING UP ON BON'S SHOULDERS TO TAKE A WILD RUN THROUGH THE AUDIENCE.
WHAT HAPPENS IF WE RUN OUT OF CORD?
WOULDN'T EVEN SLOW 'EM DOWN!

JUNE 1976:
WELL, MALCOLM, "SOUNDS" MAGAZINE IS HOT TO SPONSOR A "HIGH VOLTAGE" TOUR... A HEADLINE TOUR! BUT IF WE TAKE THE BAIT, WE GOTTA MAKE A BIG SPLASH!
OKAY, HOW ABOUT THIS...
WE CALL IT THE "LOCK UP YOUR DAUGHTERS" TOUR (BON'S GONNA LIKE THAT). AND, HEY, WE GIVE A PRIZE TO THE BEST ANGUS LOOKALIKE!
SURE ENOUGH...
IN LATE JULY, THEY RETURN TO BACK UP STATUS TO SUPPORT RAINBOW ON A EUROPEAN TOUR.
TAXI
LOOK, WE HATE BLACKMORE'S BAND! WHY ARE WE HERE?
LEMME SHOW YOU... DRIVER, TAKE US TO COPENHAGEN'S RED LIGHT DISTRICT!
OCTOBER FINDS THE GLOBETROTTING ROCKERS HEADLINING A SERIES OF U.S. CLUB DATES... THEIR FIRST TIME ON AMERICAN SOIL.
LOCK UP YER DAUGHTERS, LOCK UP YER WIFE...
OOO
AC DC
THEIR NAME DOESN'T MEAN THEY'RE BISEXUAL, DOES IT?
ARE YOU KIDDIN'? LOOK AT 'EM PAW THE WOMEN!
THESE GUYS ARE EVEN BETTER THAN I HEARD THEY WERE, BUT I CAN'T FIND ANY OF THEIR ALBUMS!
MEANWHILE, ATLANTIC RECORDS IS ANXIOUS TO CAPITALIZE ON THE BOYS GROWING POPULARITY.
THEY'RE RELUCTANT TO COME OFF THE ROAD AND GO BACK TO THE STUDIO!
THE SHORT GUITARIST SAID SOMETHING ABOUT "PLOOKING SHIELAS."
WELL, LET'S CALL UP THEIR MANAGERS AND SEE IF THEY HAVE ANY MORE AUSSIE TRACKS LEFT OVER THAT WE CAN RELEASE.

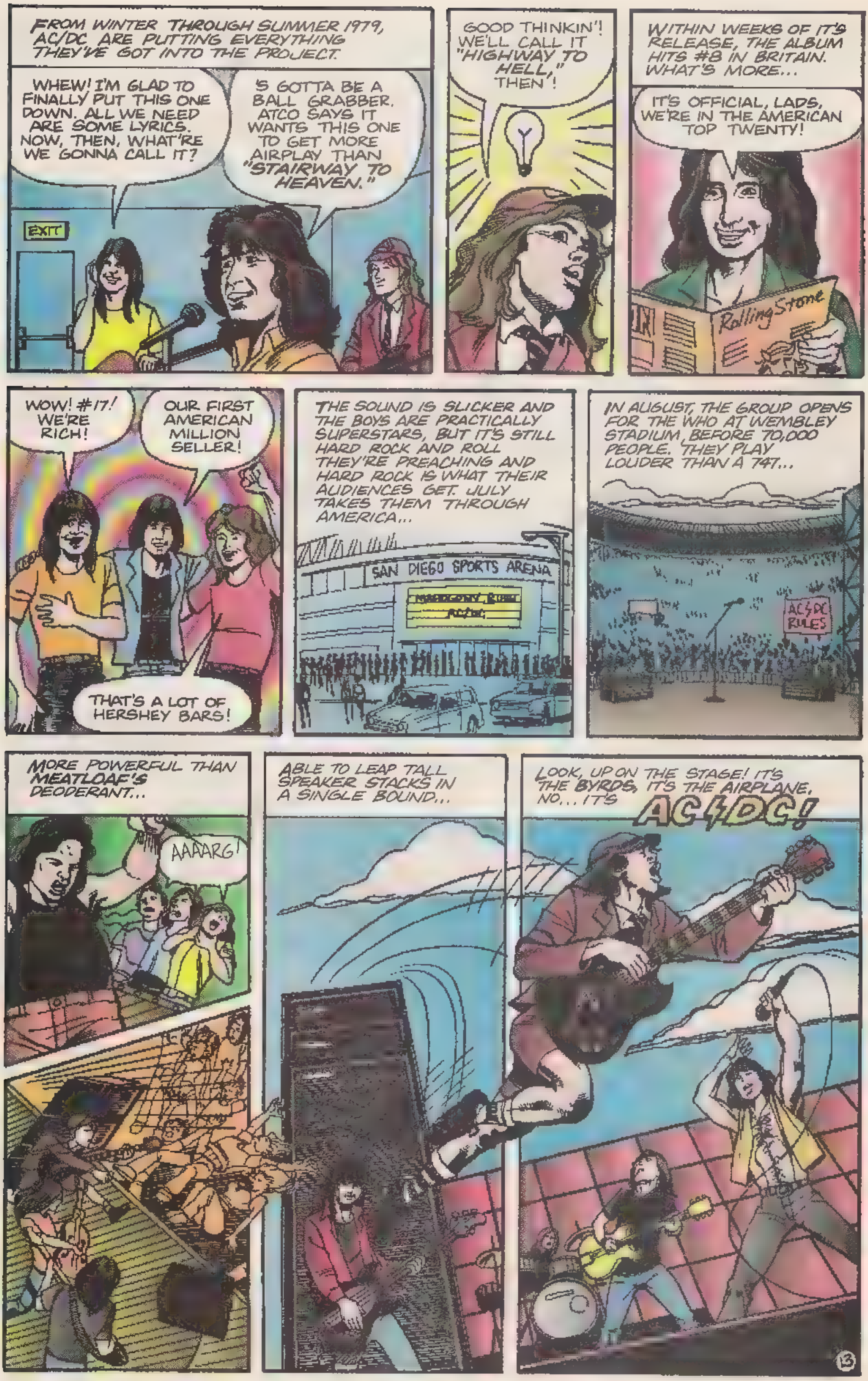
DECEMBER 1976 SEES THE U.K. RELEASE OF "DIRTY DEEDS DONE DIRT CHEAP."
JEEZ! THE NEW ALBUM'S STIFFIN'! SALES SUCK!
THAT'S CAUSE IT'S NOT NEW...WE DID THOSE CUTS OVER A YEAR AGO, DURING A TWO WEEK SESSION! THEY'RE STALE!
WE SHOULD GO BACK TO THE STUDIO WITH VANDA AND YOUNG AND REALLY PUT A SHINE ON SOME NEW SONGS!
YEAH! BUT LET'S DO IT IN AUSTRALIA! WE CAN PLAY SOME "HOMECOMING" GIGS WHILE WE'RE THERE!
DURING THOSE EARLY MONTHS OF '77 THE BAND MELTS DOWN THE AUSSIE ROCK CIRCUIT WITH THEIR WILDLY OUTRAGEOUS ACT. ANGUS, AS SUPERMAN, MAKES HIS ENTRANCE FROM A PHONE BOOTH.
...MY BALLS ARE ALWAYS BOUNCING, MY BALLS ARE ALWAYS FULL...
HEY, THE BLOODY DOOR'S STUCK! LEMME OUT!!
BON DRESSES AS A GORILLA AND CRAWLS ONSTAGE FROM A CAGE (THOUGH THE CAGE IS TOO CLOSE TO THE PRECIPICE.)
AAAAH!
BON, DRESSED AS TARZAN NOW, SWINGS ACROSS THE STAGE...
OOOOOO!
CRASH
IN FEBRUARY, THEY RETURN TO ALBERT'S STUDIO IN SYDNEY.
THESE LOUTS ARE PEAKIN' THE METERS AGAIN.
YEAH... IT'S A MILLION SELLER, FER SURE!
RECORDING
LET THERE BE LIGHT, LET THERE BE SOUND...

AFTER TWO MONTHS LAYING DOWN PRIMARY TRACKS, THE BOYS DO SOME SOLD-OUT DOUBLE BILLS WITH BLACK SABBATH IN MAY '77. BUT IN JUNE, THE YOUNG BROTHERS GET A SURPRIZE PHONE CALL.
MALCOLM, IT'S MARK, HE WANTS TO KNOW IF WE KNOW ANY GOOD BASS PLAYERS WHO CAN COVER THE KISS AND RUSH TOURS IN JULY.
WHAAT?! LEMME TALK TO 'IM.
WHAT'S ALL THIS ABOUT YOU NOT WANTING TO PLAY THIS SUMMER? YOU DRYIN' OUT OR SOMETHING? I THOUGHT ANGUS WAS THE ONLY TEETOTALER IN THIS BAND.
I JUST THINK THAT I NEED TO... EXPAND MY HORIZONS. IT SEEMS LIKE I'VE BEEN STOMPING AROUND LIKE A CAVEMAN FOREVER. I WANNA TRY SOMETHING NEW.
HARDLY MISSING A BEAT (SO TO SPEAK), MALCOLM AND ANGUS TAKE A SUGGESTION FROM BON AND AUDITION BRITISHER CLIFF WILLIAMS, AN INNOVATIVE AND LIMBER-FINGERED PLAYER FROM THE CULT POP BAND "HOME." CLIFF PLAYS TO A RECORDED TRACK.
E'S A LOT FUGGIN' FASTER THAN MARK, INNIT HE? HE PULLS THEM STRINGS LIKE HE'S STOKIN' HIS WANKER!
BON AND PHIL ARE GONNA GO FOR IT. WE NEED THE GUY RIGHT AWAY ANYWAY, DON'T WE? LET'S HIRE HIM.
CLIFF LEARNS THE THUMPING REPERTOIRE IN A MATTER OF WEEKS. IN JULY, AC/DC ARE BRINGING DOWN METAL THUNDER FROM THE U.S. SKIES. ANGUS MAKES AN AMAZING DISCOVERY BACKSTAGE AT NEW YORK'S PALLADIUM.
LOOK, ANGUS, IT'S A WIRELESS GUITAR! YOU CAN PLAY IT UP TO THREE HUNDRED FEET FROM THE BROADCAST RECEIVER!
I'M GONNA TAKE IT DOWN OXFORD STREET! NOBODY'LL KNOW WHAT HIT 'EM!
WHAT AN EVIL GRIN!
I READ WHERE A GUY SAYS ANGUS RUNS OVER A MILE A NIGHT. I BET HIM AND BON'LL COVER TWICE AS MUCH WITH THAT LITTLE TOY!
9

IN OCTOBER 1977, THE ALBUM "LET THERE BE ROCK" IS RELEASED. IT SEEMS LIKE EVERY OTHER MAGAZINE AND TV SHOW IN BRITAIN AND AUSTRALIA IS TALKING ABOUT AC/DC, BUT SALES IN THE U.S. ARE SLOW (EVEN IF THE PRESS IS GLOWING).
KERRANG
BILLBOARD
"...hard rocking, spasmodic and hyperactive AC/DC. Like a twisted mating of Led Zeppelin and the sensational Alex Harvey Band, their music."
SOUNDS
AC/DC LP NO. 17 in U.K.
SOME AUSTRALIAN WAGS FOCUS ON THE PURPORTED "NEGATIVITY." ON ONE AUSSIE TALK SHOW...
AND HERE THEY ARE. YOU LOVE TO HATE THEM... THE NOTORIOUS... AC/DC! GIVE 'EM A HAND.
TUPPER TIME!
SO, DO US A FAVOR THEN. LIVE UP TO YOUR IMAGE AND SAY SOMETHING SICK FOR OUR STUDIO AUDIENCE AND LOVELY FOLKS AT HOME.
STUDIO 5
MALCOLM STORMS OFF THE SET IN ANGER...
EXIT
...ONLY TO HAVE THE DIRECTOR FOLLOW HIM INTO THE PARKING GARAGE!
FABULOUS! GROOVY! LISTEN, COME BACK ON AND DO THAT AGAIN!
WE'LL GET A CAMERA TO FOLLOW YOU THIS TIME! IT'LL BE GREAT! AWESOME!
STAGE
!!#*!!@#!!


THE BAND FINDS THAT THEY'VE FINALLY WARMED UP TO THE STUDIO ATMOSPHERE, AND EVEN ADMIT THAT THEY'RE TIRING OF THE CIRCUS OF CONSTANT TOURING AND PROMOTION.
I'M READY TO GO BACK, TOO. BUT WHO SHOULD WE PICK TO PRODUCE THIS ONE?
WE'VE GOT OFFERS FROM RUNDGREN, GILMOUR AND LANGE.
SOD 'EM! WE'RE STICKIN' WITH MY BROTHER AND HARRY VANDA. THEY'VE DONE ALL RIGHT BY US SO FAR.
YEAH, THEY BRING OUT THE BEAST IN US!
IN FEBRUARY AND MARCH OF 1978, THEY RECORD THEIR FINEST LP TO DATE, EVEN IF THEIR FORMULAIC APPROACH TO SONGWRITING SEEMS REPETITIVE TO SOME.
SOUNDS ALOT LIKE "LET THERE BE ROCK..."
IF IT AIN'T BROKE, HARRY, DON'T FIX IT!
NEW BASSIST CLIFF WILLIAMS PROVES MORE THAN CAPABLE. EVANS' DEPARTURE IS BARELY NOTICED BY THE FANS AND PRESS.
IN MAY, THE ALBUM, "POWERAGE," IS RELEASED.
IT'S DOIN' THE SAME AS THE LAST ALBUM ...#24 IN BRITAIN, BUT IT ISN'T OUT IN THE STATES YET.
DEJA VU... I THOUGHT WE'D BE HEADLINING THE U.S. BY NOW!
ATCO SAYS WE GOTTA GET A SINGLE OUT. WHICH ONE SHOULD WE PICK?
ROCK AND ROLL DAMNATION!!
THE SINGLE GOES TO #24 IN THE U.K., AS THE GROUP GAMELY OPENS SHOWS IN THE STATES FOR RAINBOW, ALICE COOPER AND AEROSMITH. THEY'RE DETERMINED TO CONQUER AMERICA.
DAY ON THE GREEN FESTIVAL
WHILE TOURING AMERICA THROUGH AUGUST, THEY FINALLY SEE THE "POWERAGE" ALBUM RELEASED STATESIDE. IT'S THEIR BEST-SELLING YANKEE HIT YET, MOVING OVER 200,000 COPIES. WHEN THE BAND GOES BACK TO BRITAIN, THEY TELL "SOUNDS" MAGAZINE...
WE'RE GONNA DO 15 BRITISH CONCERTS IN 18 DAYS, FROM HALLOWEEN THROUGH NOVEMBER 16TH!
ARE YOU KIDDING?!?
HELL, NO, WE GOTTA PROMOTE THE NEW ALBUM!

WHAT NEW ALBUM?!?
OUR LIVE ALBUM!
"IF YOU WANT BLOOD..."
"YOU'VE GOT IT!"
ONCE AGAIN, VANDA AND YOUNG MIX DOWN THE TRACKS, AND THE LP IS RELEASED IMMEDIATELY BEFORE THE GRUELING U.K. TOUR, IN OCTOBER '78.
THE ALBUM'S #13 IN ENGLAND.
BUT NOBODY'S BUYING THE SINGLE!
I DON'T GET IT. "WHOLE LOTTA ROSIE" IS A GREAT ROCKER!
IT'S THIS DAMN EAGLES AND PINK FLOYD CRAP FLOODIN' THE MARKET!
THOUGH THE LIVE DISC IS #2 IN KERRANG'S TOP U.K. 100, AC/DC IS DISCOURAGED BY THEIR LACK OF U.S. LEVERAGE. THEY DECIDE TO TRY A NEW APPROACH.
WHAT IS IT THEN, MALCOLM?
WELL, GEORGE, AS MUCH AS WE LIKE THE WORK YOU AND HARRY DO AS PRODUCERS, WE'RE GONNA TRY SOMETHING DIFFERENT THIS TIME.
OH, SO IT'S "PUSH OFF, THEN, BROTHER," IS THAT IT? A FINE LOAD OF...
NAWW, MAN, NOTHING LIKE THAT. WE'LL USE YOU GUYS DOWN IN SYDNEY AGAIN, SOMETIME.
WE JUST WANNA DO A DISC IN LONDON AND SEE IF IT GIVES US A FRESH EDGE, Y'KNOW? MUTT LANGE'S GONNA TWIST KNOBS FER US AT THE ROADHOUSE. HE'S THE GUY WHO DID THE BOOMTOWN RATS.
OI! IF HE CAN PRODUCE HITMAKERS OUTTA THEM TONE DEAF LACKEYS, IT'S WORTH A SHOT!
HEH, HEH! NOW YER COMIN' AROUND, BRO'!
UNCHARACTERISTICALLY, THE GROUP SPENDS NEARLY SIX MONTHS RECORDING NEW SONGS.
Y'KNOW, WE'RE GOOD ENOUGH PLAYERS TO DO JAZZ, POP...
YEAH, BUT SHOULD WE? WE'RE NOT PLAYING FOR BRAIN SURGEONS.
NO, BUT WE ARE PLAYIN' FOR THE YANKS.
IT'S DO OR DIE THIS TIME. LET'S JUST ROCK THE BEST WE KNOW HOW ...WE'LL KICK AMERICA'S ASS OR GO DOWN IN FLAMES TRYING!
C'MON, GUYS, LET'S DO ANOTHER TAKE.


FROM WINTER THROUGH SUMMER 1979, AC/DC ARE PUTTING EVERYTHING THEY'VE GOT INTO THE PROJECT.
WHEW! I'M GLAD TO FINALLY PUT THIS ONE DOWN. ALL WE NEED ARE SOME LYRICS. NOW, THEN, WHAT'RE WE GONNA CALL IT?
'S GOTTA BE A BALL GRABBER. ATCO SAYS IT WANTS THIS ONE TO GET MORE AIRPLAY THAN "STAIRWAY TO HEAVEN."
EXIT
GOOD THINKIN'! WE'LL CALL IT "HIGHWAY TO HELL," THEN!
WITHIN WEEKS OF IT'S RELEASE, THE ALBUM HITS #8 IN BRITAIN. WHAT'S MORE...
IT'S OFFICIAL, LADS, WE'RE IN THE AMERICAN TOP TWENTY!
Rolling Stone
WOW! #17! WE'RE RICH!
OUR FIRST AMERICAN MILLION SELLER!
THAT'S A LOT OF HERSHEY BARS!
THE SOUND IS SLICKER AND THE BOYS ARE PRACTICALLY SUPERSTARS, BUT IT'S STILL HARD ROCK AND ROLL THEY'RE PREACHING AND HARD ROCK IS WHAT THEIR AUDIENCES GET. JULY TAKES THEM THROUGH AMERICA...
SAN DIEGO SPORTS ARENA
AC/DC
IN AUGUST, THE GROUP OPENS FOR THE WHO AT WEMBLEY STADIUM, BEFORE 70,000 PEOPLE. THEY PLAY LOUDER THAN A 747...
AC/DC RULES
MORE POWERFUL THAN MEATLOAF'S DEODERANT...
AAAARG!
ABLE TO LEAP TALL SPEAKER STACKS IN A SINGLE BOUND...
LOOK, UP ON THE STAGE! IT'S THE BYRDS, IT'S THE AIRPLANE, NO... IT'S
AC/DC!

SOME TRIUMPHANT U.K. HEADLINING DATES ARE OPENED BY NEWCOMERS DEF LEPPARD.
...HAVIN' A GOOD TIME...
BACKSTAGE AT THE HAMMERSMITH ODEAN...
THANKS FOR LETTING LEPPARD PLAY WITH YOU GUYS. MY NAME'S RICK. RICK ALLEN. HEY, IT'S MY BIRTHDAY TONIGHT... YOU GUYS WANNA COME TO A PARTY AT OUR REHERSAL HALL?
ME AN' THE BOYS NEVER MISS A PARTY, RICK!
LATER...
JEEZ! I AM FACED! SAY RICK, M'MAN, HOW OLD DID YE SAY YE WERE?
I'M GETTIN' OVER THE HILL, BON. I JUST TURNED SIXTEEN!
THE "TOUCH TOO MUCH" SINGLE HITS #29 IN BRITAIN DURING AUGUST.
WHAT?! YOU BOUGHT ANOTHER GIBSON SG GUITAR? YOU GOT MORE'N TWENTY OF 'EM!
WELL, I NEVER HAD SO MUCH MONEY BEFORE. WHAT ELSE CAN I SPEND IT ON?
I MEAN, I DON'T DRINK OR GO TO PUBS LIKE YOU LADS. ALL I'VE GOT TO SPEND ME MONEY ON IS CHOCOLATE AND AXES, DON'T I?
I FOUND OUT THAT MONEY REALLY DOES TALK... IT SAYS "GOODBYE" TO ME A LOT!
MEANWHILE, THE ALBUM IS RUPTURING CHEAP SPEAKERS AND FRAGILE EARDRUMS ACROSS THE ATLANTIC AS WELL.
...AND, BY REQUEST, HERE'S AC/DC AND "GIRL'S GOT RHYTHM."
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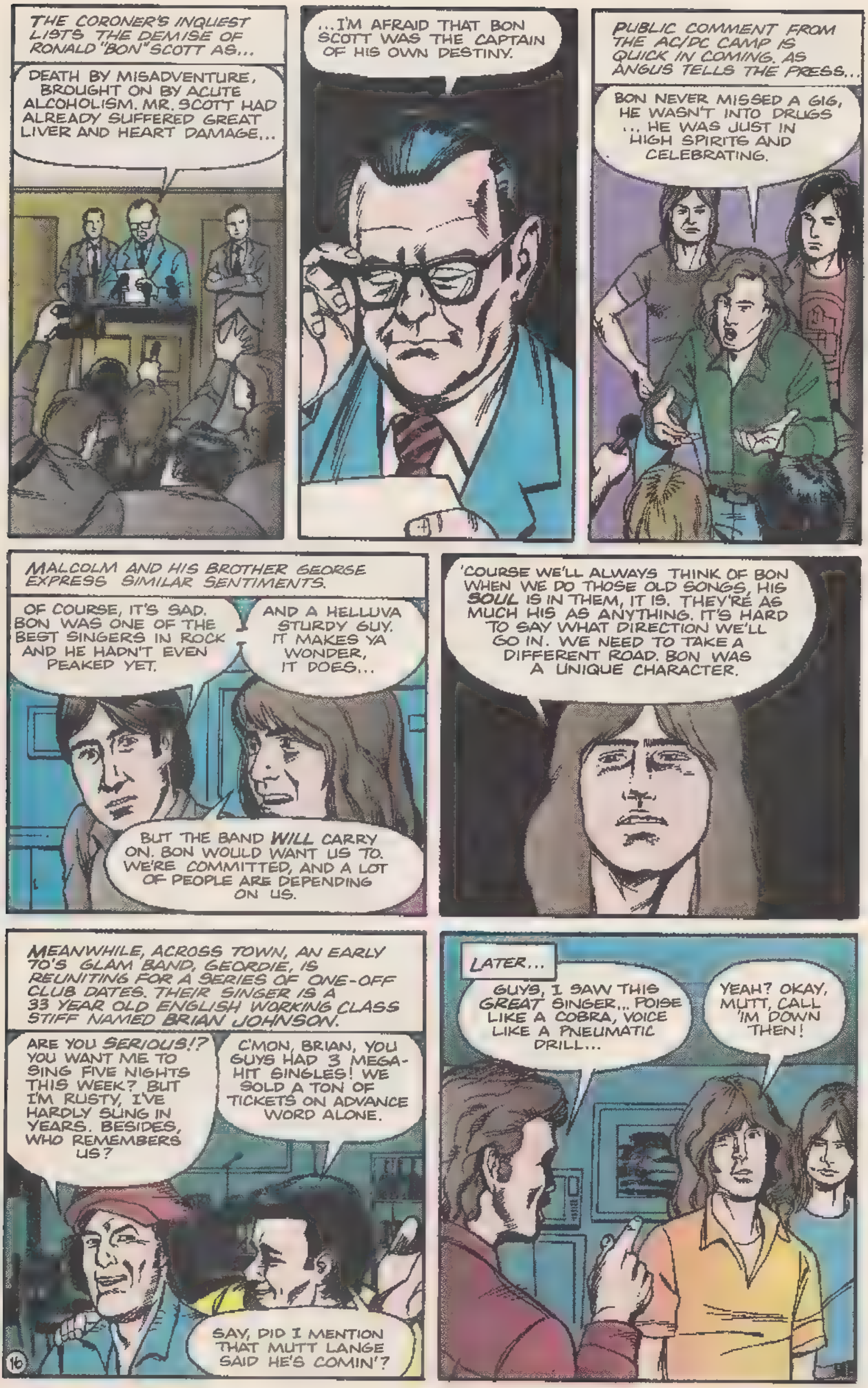
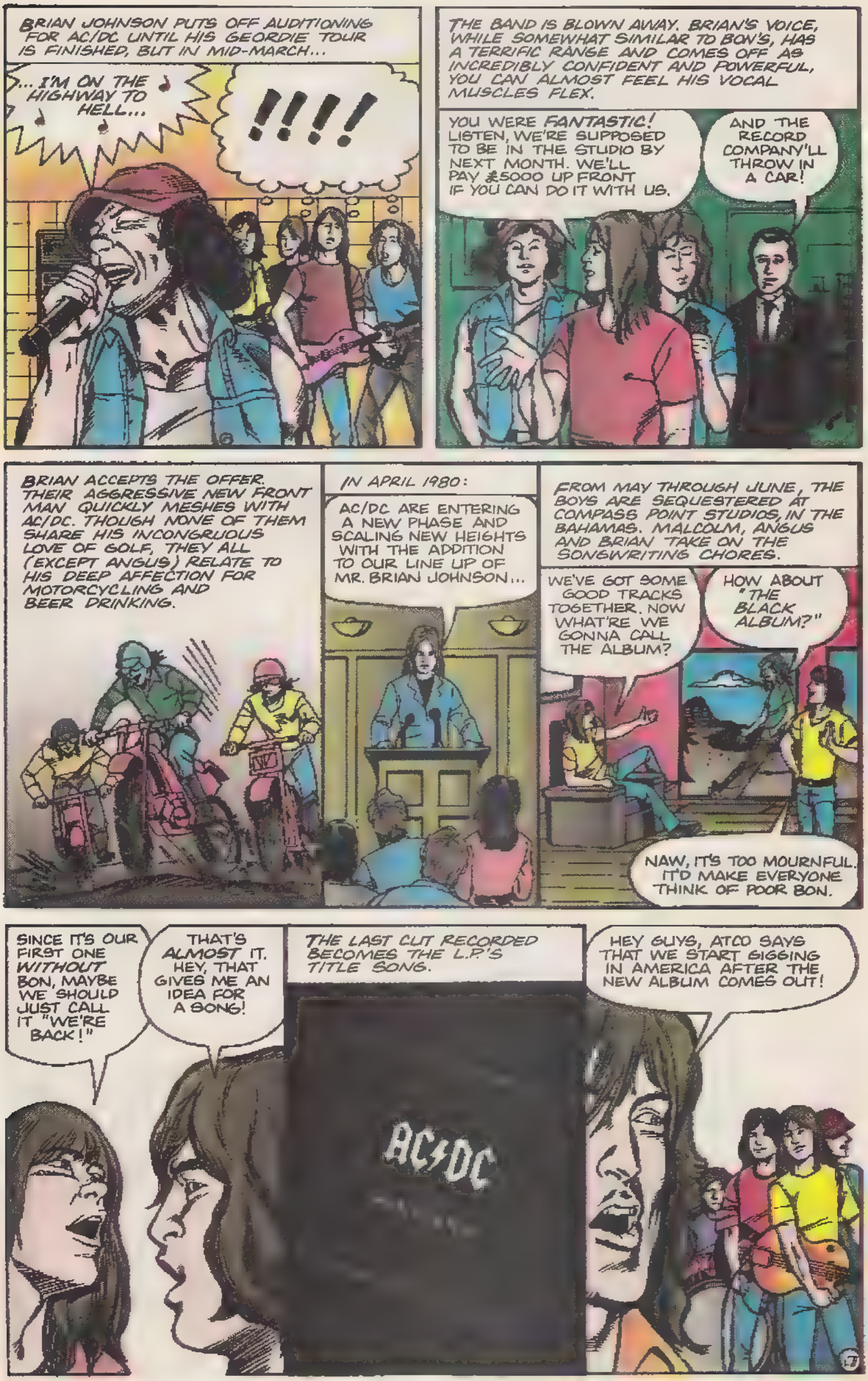
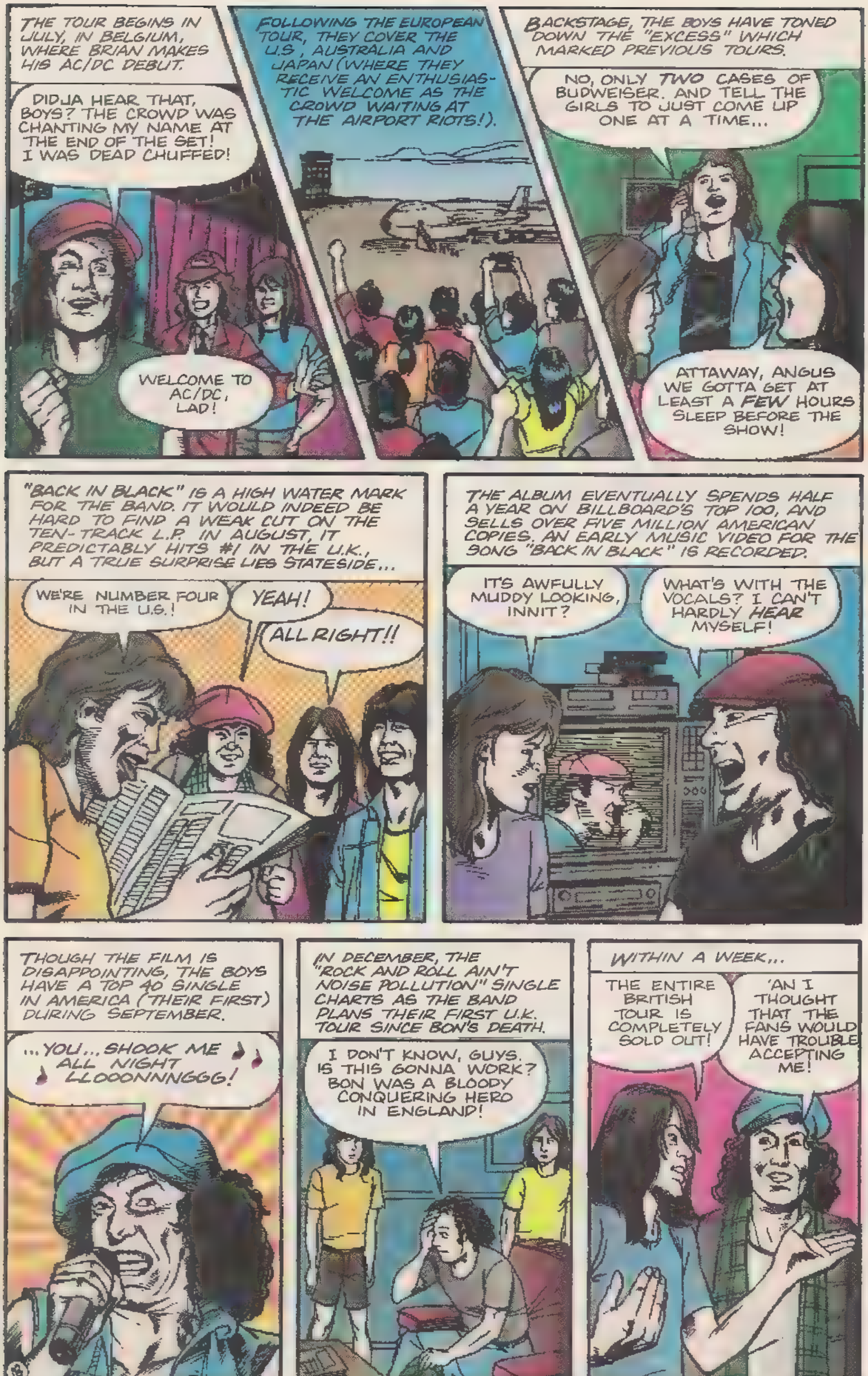
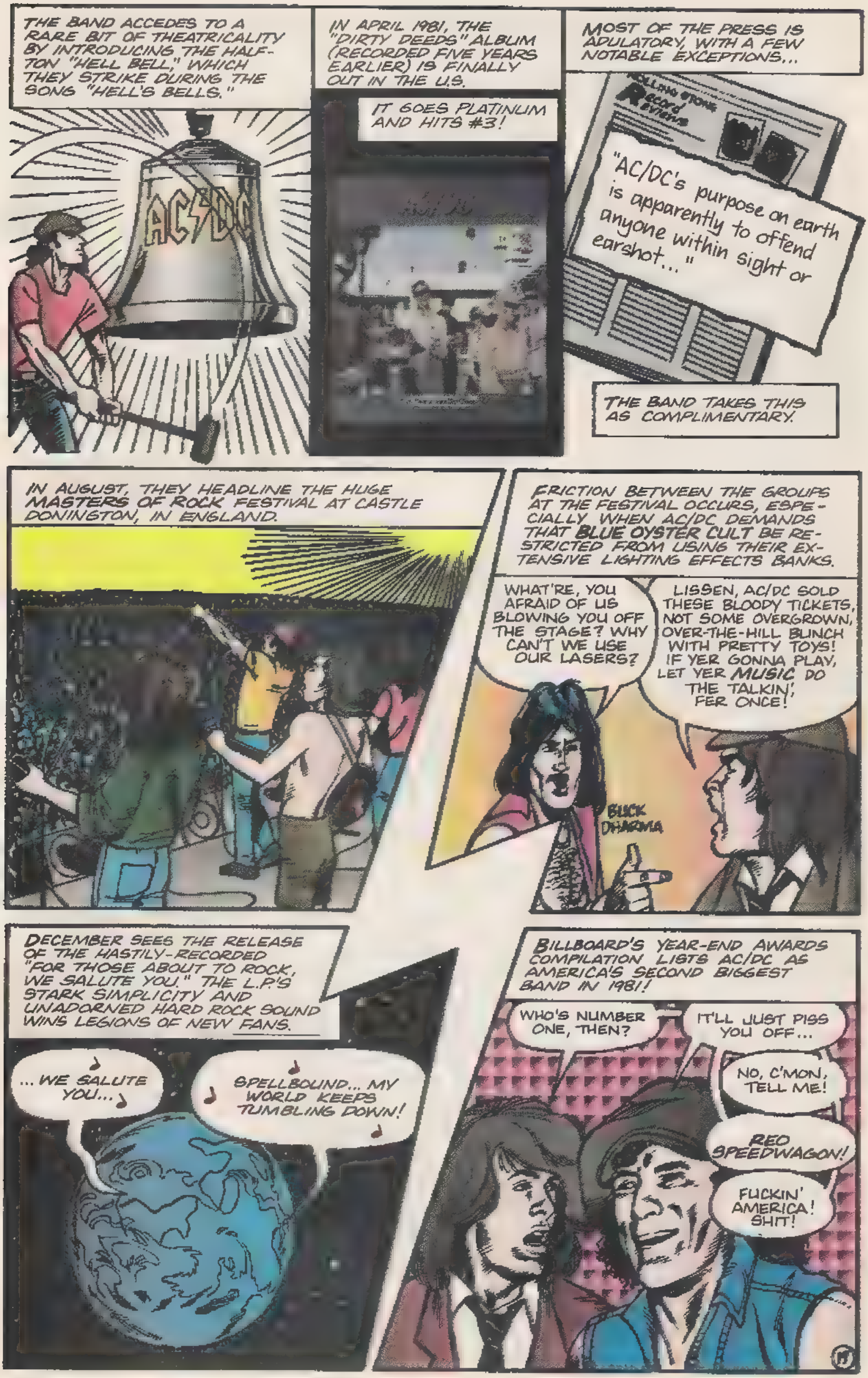
ON THE EVENING OF FEBRUARY 21ST, 1980, BON IS TOSSING BACK THE BREW AT THE MUSIC MACHINE IN LONDON. WITH HIM IS FRIEND ALISDAIR KINNEAR.
HEEEYY, C'MON BON, LET'S GO. YOU AWREADY HAD SEVEN DOUBLE WHISKIES...
ALE
C'MON, MATE, I'LL...UGH... DRIVE YE TO MY FLAT. YE C'N SLEEP IT OFF THERE.
Music Machine
WHEN THEY ARRIVE, BON IS PASSED OUT IN THE BACK SEAT.
OI, YER A HEAVY ONE! I CAN'T GET YE INSIDE.
TELL YA WHAT, YOU SLEEP OUT HERE AN' I'LL CHECK ON YE IN A BIT.
FIFTEEN HOURS LATER, ALISDAIR WAKES UP.
OH, CHRIST, IT'S PAST FUCKIN' NOONTIME! I BETTER GO SEE IF BON'S GOTTEN A CAB HOME OR WHAT!
TO HIS HORROR, BON LIES STILL IN THE CAR, SEEMINGLY NOT BREATHING.
HOLY MOTHER...I GOTTA GET HIM TO THE HOSPITAL AT KING'S COLLEGE. I...I THINK E'S FUCKIN' CROAKING!
SADLY...
SORRY. I'M AFRAID HE'S...
AW, HELL!
15


THE CORONER'S INQUEST LISTS THE DEMISE OF RONALD "BON" SCOTT AS...
DEATH BY MISADVENTURE, BROUGHT ON BY ACUTE ALCOHOLISM. MR. SCOTT HAD ALREADY SUFFERED GREAT LIVER AND HEART DAMAGE...
...I'M AFRAID THAT BON SCOTT WAS THE CAPTAIN OF HIS OWN DESTINY.
PUBLIC COMMENT FROM THE AC/DC CAMP IS QUICK IN COMING, AS ANGUS TELLS THE PRESS...
BON NEVER MISSED A GIG, HE WASN'T INTO DRUGS ... HE WAS JUST IN HIGH SPIRITS AND CELEBRATING.
MALCOLM AND HIS BROTHER GEORGE EXPRESS SIMILAR SENTIMENTS.
OF COURSE, IT'S SAD. BON WAS ONE OF THE BEST SINGERS IN ROCK AND HE HADN'T EVEN PEAKED YET.
AND A HELLUVA STURDY GUY. IT MAKES YA WONDER, IT DOES...
BUT THE BAND WILL CARRY ON. BON WOULD WANT US TO. WE'RE COMMITTED, AND A LOT OF PEOPLE ARE DEPENDING ON US.
'COURSE WE'LL ALWAYS THINK OF BON WHEN WE DO THOSE OLD SONGS, HIS SOUL IS IN THEM, IT IS. THEY'RE AS MUCH HIS AS ANYTHING. IT'S HARD TO SAY WHAT DIRECTION WE'LL GO IN. WE NEED TO TAKE A DIFFERENT ROAD. BON WAS A UNIQUE CHARACTER.
MEANWHILE, ACROSS TOWN, AN EARLY 70'S GLAM BAND, GEORDIE, IS REUNITING FOR A SERIES OF ONE-OFF CLUB DATES. THEIR SINGER IS A 33 YEAR OLD ENGLISH WORKING CLASS STIFF NAMED BRIAN JOHNSON.
ARE YOU SERIOUS!? YOU WANT ME TO SING FIVE NIGHTS THIS WEEK? BUT I'M RUSTY, I'VE HARDLY SUNG IN YEARS. BESIDES, WHO REMEMBERS US?
C'MON, BRIAN, YOU GUYS HAD 3 MEGA-HIT SINGLES! WE SOLD A TON OF TICKETS ON ADVANCE WORD ALONE.
SAY, DID I MENTION THAT MUTT LANGE SAID HE'S COMIN'?
LATER...
GUYS, I SAW THIS GREAT SINGER... POISE LIKE A COBRA, VOICE LIKE A PNEUMATIC DRILL...
YEAH? OKAY, MUTT, CALL 'IM DOWN THEN!

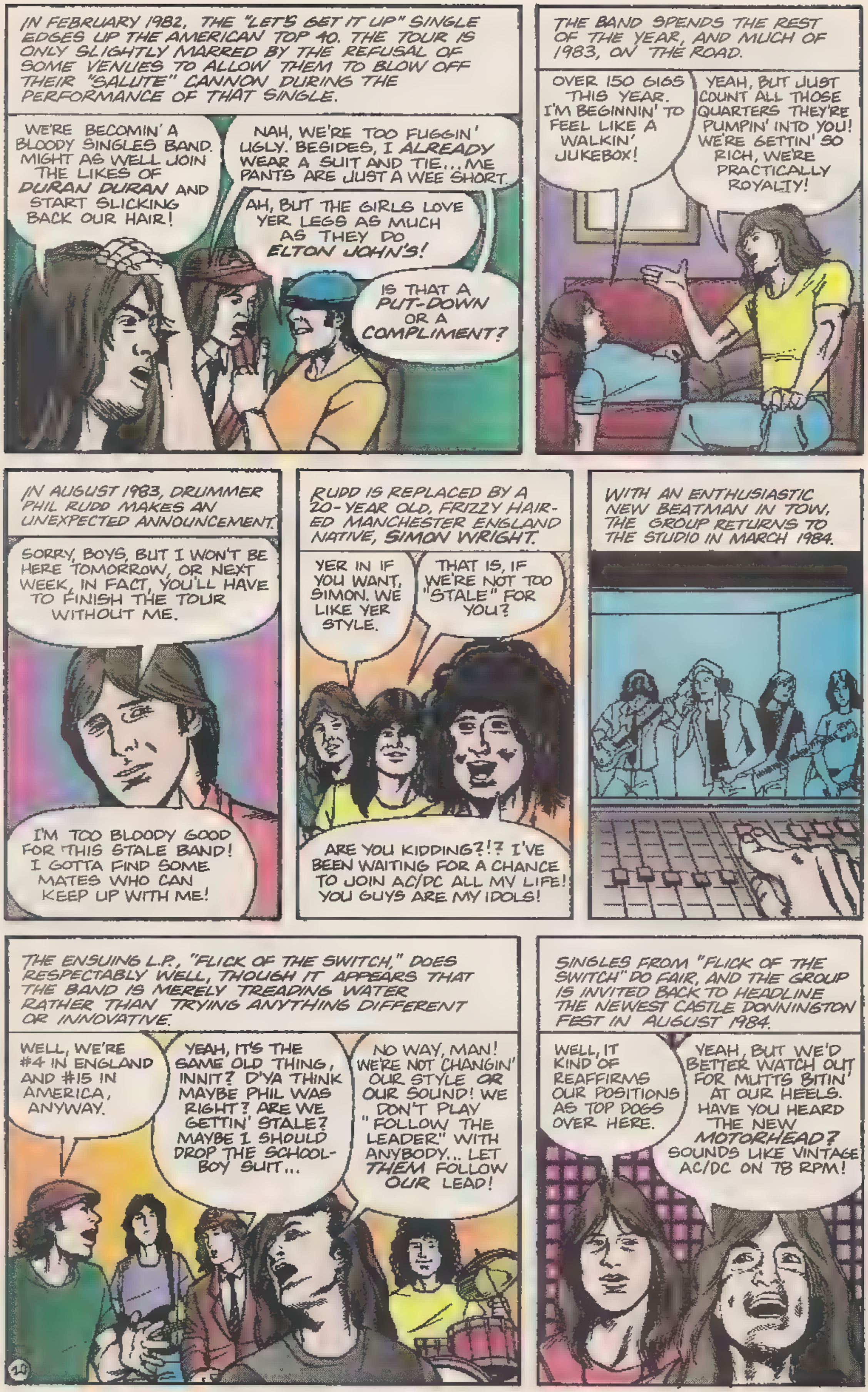


BRIAN JOHNSON PUTS OFF AUDITIONING FOR AC/DC UNTIL HIS GEORDIE TOUR IS FINISHED, BUT IN MID-MARCH...
...I'M ON THE HIGHWAY TO HELL...
!!!!
THE BAND IS BLOWN AWAY. BRIAN'S VOICE, WHILE SOMEWHAT SIMILAR TO BON'S, HAS A TERRIFIC RANGE AND COMES OFF AS INCREDIBLY CONFIDENT AND POWERFUL, YOU CAN ALMOST FEEL HIS VOCAL MUSCLES FLEX.
YOU WERE FANTASTIC! LISTEN, WE'RE SUPPOSED TO BE IN THE STUDIO BY NEXT MONTH. WE'LL PAY £5000 UP FRONT IF YOU CAN DO IT WITH US.
AND THE RECORD COMPANY'LL THROW IN A CAR!
BRIAN ACCEPTS THE OFFER. THEIR AGGRESSIVE NEW FRONT MAN QUICKLY MESHES WITH AC/DC. THOUGH NONE OF THEM SHARE HIS INCONGRUOUS LOVE OF GOLF, THEY ALL (EXCEPT ANGUS) RELATE TO HIS DEEP AFFECTION FOR MOTORCYCLING AND BEER DRINKING.
IN APRIL 1980:
AC/DC ARE ENTERING A NEW PHASE AND SCALING NEW HEIGHTS WITH THE ADDITION TO OUR LINE UP OF MR. BRIAN JOHNSON...
FROM MAY THROUGH JUNE, THE BOYS ARE SEQUESTERED AT COMPASS POINT STUDIOS, IN THE BAHAMAS. MALCOLM, ANGUS AND BRIAN TAKE ON THE SONGWRITING CHORES.
WE'VE GOT SOME GOOD TRACKS TOGETHER. NOW WHAT'RE WE GONNA CALL THE ALBUM?
HOW ABOUT "THE BLACK ALBUM?"
NAW, IT'S TOO MOURNFUL. IT'D MAKE EVERYONE THINK OF POOR BON.
SINCE IT'S OUR FIRST ONE WITHOUT BON, MAYBE WE SHOULD JUST CALL IT "WE'RE BACK!"
THAT'S ALMOST IT. HEY, THAT GIVES ME AN IDEA FOR A SONG!
THE LAST CUT RECORDED BECOMES THE L.P.'S TITLE SONG.
AC/DC
HEY GUYS, ATCO SAYS THAT WE START GIGGING IN AMERICA AFTER THE NEW ALBUM COMES OUT!
17


THE TOUR BEGINS IN JULY, IN BELGIUM, WHERE BRIAN MAKES HIS AC/DC DEBUT.
DIDJA HEAR THAT, BOYS? THE CROWD WAS CHANTING MY NAME AT THE END OF THE SET! I WAS DEAD CHUFFED!
WELCOME TO AC/DC, LAD!
FOLLOWING THE EUROPEAN TOUR, THEY COVER THE U.S., AUSTRALIA AND JAPAN (WHERE THEY RECEIVE AN ENTHUSIASTIC WELCOME AS THE CROWD WAITING AT THE AIRPORT RIOTS!).
BACKSTAGE, THE BOYS HAVE TONED DOWN THE "EXCESS" WHICH MARKED PREVIOUS TOURS.
NO, ONLY TWO CASES OF BUDWEISER. AND TELL THE GIRLS TO JUST COME UP ONE AT A TIME...
ATTAWAY, ANGUS WE GOTTA GET AT LEAST A FEW HOURS SLEEP BEFORE THE SHOW!
"BACK IN BLACK" IS A HIGH WATER MARK FOR THE BAND. IT WOULD INDEED BE HARD TO FIND A WEAK CUT ON THE TEN-TRACK L.P. IN AUGUST, IT PREDICTABLY HITS #1 IN THE U.K., BUT A TRUE SURPRISE LIES STATESIDE...
WE'RE NUMBER FOUR IN THE U.S.!
YEAH!
ALL RIGHT!!
THE ALBUM EVENTUALLY SPENDS HALF A YEAR ON BILLBOARD'S TOP 100, AND SELLS OVER FIVE MILLION AMERICAN COPIES. AN EARLY MUSIC VIDEO FOR THE SONG "BACK IN BLACK" IS RECORDED.
IT'S AWFULLY MUDDY LOOKING, INNIT?
WHAT'S WITH THE VOCALS? I CAN'T HARDLY HEAR MYSELF!
THOUGH THE FILM IS DISAPPOINTING, THE BOYS HAVE A TOP 40 SINGLE IN AMERICA (THEIR FIRST) DURING SEPTEMBER.
...YOU...SHOOK ME ALL NIGHT LLOOONNNGGG!
IN DECEMBER, THE "ROCK AND ROLL AIN'T NOISE POLLUTION" SINGLE CHARTS AS THE BAND PLANS THEIR FIRST U.K. TOUR SINCE BON'S DEATH.
I DON'T KNOW, GUYS. IS THIS GONNA WORK? BON WAS A BLOODY CONQUERING HERO IN ENGLAND!
WITHIN A WEEK...
THE ENTIRE BRITISH TOUR IS COMPLETELY SOLD OUT!
'AN I THOUGHT THAT THE FANS WOULD HAVE TROUBLE ACCEPTING ME!
18



THE BAND ACCEDES TO A RARE BIT OF THEATRICALITY BY INTRODUCING THE HALF-TON "HELL BELL," WHICH THEY STRIKE DURING THE SONG "HELL'S BELLS."
AC/DC
IN APRIL 1981, THE "DIRTY DEEDS" ALBUM (RECORDED FIVE YEARS EARLIER) IS FINALLY OUT IN THE U.S.
IT GOES PLATINUM AND HITS #3!
MOST OF THE PRESS IS ADULATORY, WITH A FEW NOTABLE EXCEPTIONS...
Record Reviews
"AC/DC's purpose on earth is apparently to offend anyone within sight or earshot..."
THE BAND TAKES THIS AS COMPLIMENTARY.
IN AUGUST, THEY HEADLINE THE HUGE MASTERS OF ROCK FESTIVAL AT CASTLE DONINGTON, IN ENGLAND.
FRICTION BETWEEN THE GROUPS AT THE FESTIVAL OCCURS, ESPECIALLY WHEN AC/DC DEMANDS THAT BLUE OYSTER CULT BE RESTRICTED FROM USING THEIR EXTENSIVE LIGHTING EFFECTS BANKS.
WHAT'RE, YOU AFRAID OF US BLOWING YOU OFF THE STAGE? WHY CAN'T WE USE OUR LASERS?
LISSEN, AC/DC SOLD THESE BLOODY TICKETS, NOT SOME OVERGROWN, OVER-THE-HILL BUNCH WITH PRETTY TOYS! IF YER GONNA PLAY, LET YER MUSIC DO THE TALKIN' FER ONCE!
BUCK DHARMA
DECEMBER SEES THE RELEASE OF THE HASTILY-RECORDED "FOR THOSE ABOUT TO ROCK, WE SALUTE YOU." THE L.P.'S STARK SIMPLICITY AND UNADORNED HARD ROCK SOUND WINS LEGIONS OF NEW FANS.
...WE SALUTE YOU...
SPELLBOUND... MY WORLD KEEPS TUMBLING DOWN!
BILLBOARD'S YEAR-END AWARDS COMPILATION LISTS AC/DC AS AMERICA'S SECOND BIGGEST BAND IN 1981!
WHO'S NUMBER ONE, THEN?
IT'LL JUST PISS YOU OFF...
NO, C'MON, TELL ME!
REO SPEEDWAGON!
FUCKIN' AMERICA! SHIT!



IN FEBRUARY 1982, THE "LET'S GET IT UP" SINGLE EDGES UP THE AMERICAN TOP 40. THE TOUR IS ONLY SLIGHTLY MARRED BY THE REFUSAL OF SOME VENUES TO ALLOW THEM TO BLOW OFF THEIR "SALUTE" CANNON DURING THE PERFORMANCE OF THAT SINGLE.
WE'RE BECOMIN' A BLOODY SINGLES BAND. MIGHT AS WELL JOIN THE LIKES OF DURAN DURAN AND START SLICKING BACK OUR HAIR!
NAH, WE'RE TOO FUGGIN' UGLY. BESIDES, I ALREADY WEAR A SUIT AND TIE... ME PANTS ARE JUST A WEE SHORT.
AH, BUT THE GIRLS LOVE YER LEGS AS MUCH AS THEY DO ELTON JOHN'S!
IS THAT A PUT-DOWN OR A COMPLIMENT?
THE BAND SPENDS THE REST OF THE YEAR, AND MUCH OF 1983, ON THE ROAD.
OVER 150 GIGS THIS YEAR. I'M BEGINNIN' TO FEEL LIKE A WALKIN' JUKEBOX!
YEAH, BUT JUST COUNT ALL THOSE QUARTERS THEY'RE PUMPIN' INTO YOU! WE'RE GETTIN' SO RICH, WE'RE PRACTICALLY ROYALTY!
IN AUGUST 1983, DRUMMER PHIL RUDD MAKES AN UNEXPECTED ANNOUNCEMENT.
SORRY, BOYS, BUT I WON'T BE HERE TOMORROW, OR NEXT WEEK, IN FACT, YOU'LL HAVE TO FINISH THE TOUR WITHOUT ME.
I'M TOO BLOODY GOOD FOR THIS STALE BAND! I GOTTA FIND SOME MATES WHO CAN KEEP UP WITH ME!
RUDD IS REPLACED BY A 20-YEAR OLD, FRIZZY HAIRED MANCHESTER ENGLAND NATIVE, SIMON WRIGHT.
YER IN IF YOU WANT, SIMON. WE LIKE YER STYLE.
THAT IS, IF WE'RE NOT TOO "STALE" FOR YOU?
ARE YOU KIDDING?!? I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR A CHANCE TO JOIN AC/DC ALL MY LIFE! YOU GUYS ARE MY IDOLS!
WITH AN ENTHUSIASTIC NEW BEATMAN IN TOW, THE GROUP RETURNS TO THE STUDIO IN MARCH 1984.
THE ENSUING L.P., "FLICK OF THE SWITCH," DOES RESPECTABLY WELL, THOUGH IT APPEARS THAT THE BAND IS MERELY TREADING WATER RATHER THAN TRYING ANYTHING DIFFERENT OR INNOVATIVE.
WELL, WE'RE #4 IN ENGLAND AND #15 IN AMERICA, ANYWAY.
YEAH, IT'S THE SAME OLD THING, INNIT? D'YA THINK MAYBE PHIL WAS RIGHT? ARE WE GETTIN' STALE? MAYBE I SHOULD DROP THE SCHOOL-BOY SUIT...
NO WAY, MAN! WE'RE NOT CHANGIN' OUR STYLE OR OUR SOUND! WE DON'T PLAY "FOLLOW THE LEADER" WITH ANYBODY... LET THEM FOLLOW OUR LEAD!
20
SINGLES FROM "FLICK OF THE SWITCH" DO FAIR, AND THE GROUP IS INVITED BACK TO HEADLINE THE NEWEST CASTLE DONNINGTON FEST IN AUGUST 1984.
WELL, IT KIND OF REAFFIRMS OUR POSITIONS AS TOP DOGS OVER HERE.
YEAH, BUT WE'D BETTER WATCH OUT FOR MUTTS BITIN' AT OUR HEELS. HAVE YOU HEARD THE NEW MOTORHEAD? SOUNDS LIKE VINTAGE AC/DC ON 78 RPM!

1984 ALSO SEES THE RELEASE OF "'74 JAILBREAK," A COMPILATION OF EARLY AUSSIE TRACKS WITH BON SCOTT ON VOCALS.
KINDA SPOOKY, HEARIN' BON WAIL "BABY PLEASE DON'T GO" OVER THE RADIO EVERY OTHER DAY NOW!
YEAH, BUT AMERICAN KIDS NEVER HEARD THAT STUFF BEFORE. THEY'RE SNAPPIN' IT UP!
IN JANUARY 1985, AC/DC HEADLINES BRAZIL'S "ROCK IN RIO" FESTIVAL. RECORD COMPANY EXECS ESTIMATE THAT THEY'VE NOW SOLD 75 MILLION DOLLARS WORTH OF DISCS IN THE U.S. ALONE!
...CALL ME ANYTIME ...I LEAD A LIFE OF CRIME!
HOWEVER, 1985 IS ALSO THE YEAR OF L.A.'S NEWEST MASS MURDERER, A MAN DUBBED "THE NIGHT STALKER." UPON THE ARREST OF A MAJOR SUSPECT, HE TELLS REPORTERS...
YEP, I'M A SATANIST. AC/DC ARE MY FAVORITE BAND!
THE NEGATIVE PRESS IS OVERWHELMING, AND THE CONTROVERSY BECOMES THE SUBJECT OF MANY CONVERSATIONS, MANY WITH LITTLE BASIS IN FACT.
DIDJA HEAR ABOUT THE SUBLIMINAL MESSAGES ON AC/DC RECORDS?
YEAH, I HEARD THEY'RE SUPPOSED TO MAKE YOU WANT TO KILL YOUR MOM! THAT EXPLAINS WHY I'VE BEEN FEELING THIS WAY...
AC/DC HAS NOT, NOR HAVE WE EVER, ADVOCATED SATANISM IN ANY WAY.
THE P.M.R.C., A COALITION OF, ESSENTIALLY, CENSORSHIP ADVOCATES LED BY TIPPER GORE (A CONGRESSMAN'S WIFE), DECRIES AC/DC'S MUSIC AS "DEMONIC." BRIAN'S DIRECT RESPONSE DOES LITTLE TO PLACATE RIGHT-WING BACKLASH.
MY MOM WILL GO OVER AND RIP TIPPER GORE'S TITS OFF!!!
OH, JEEZUS...
OH, OH..
THEY DECIDE TO BASICALLY IGNORE THE BROUHAHA AND GET ON WITH THEIR CAREER. THE FIRST POST-NIGHT STALKER L.P. IS RELEASED IN JULY 1985.
THE ALBUM HITS #7 IN ENGLAND AND #32 IN THE U.S. THE AMERICAN TOUR GOES ON AS SCHEDULED, THOUGH SOME VENUES ARE FILLED ONLY TO HALF CAPACITY.
THE U.K. AND JAPANESE TOURS, IN EARLY 1986, GO OVER MUCH BETTER.
THE ALBUM BARELY WENT GOLD IN AMERICA, AN' IT'S DROPPIN' OFF THE CHARTS NOW.
YEAH, BUT THE JAPANESE ARE PRACTICALLY BUILDIN' MONUMENTS TO US!
WHILE THE PMRC BURNS US IN EFFIGY!

IN FEBRUARY 1986, THE BAND IS APPROACHED BY THE PRODUCERS OF A NEW STEPHEN KING MOVIE.
WE'RE LOOKING FOR SOMEONE TO HELP WITH THE SOUND-TRACK. IT'S CALLED "MAXIMUM OVERDRIVE," AND IT'S ABOUT A BUNCH OF TRUCKS THAT COME TO LIFE.
THE TRUCKS HOLD A BUNCH OF PEOPLE HOSTAGE AFTER RUNNING OVER SOME OTHER GUYS.
SO, IT'S LIKE WE THINK WE MADE THE MACHINES, BUT IT TURNS OUT THAT THEY'RE IN CHARGE! I LIKE THAT!
IN MAY 1986, "WHO MADE WHO" IS RELEASED, WITH OLD SONGS AND SOME NEW ONES FROM THE FILM.
AC/DC
THE TITLE CUT DOES WELL AS A SINGLE, AND THE ALBUM EASILY POSTS TOP 40 FIGURES IN BRITAIN AND AMERICA. THE NEW SONGS ARE A RETURN TO THE EARLY SOUND...
WELL, IT'S 'CAUSE VANDA AND YOUNG ARE PRODUCING US AGAIN.
YEAH, THOSE TWO GUYS REALLY TAP OUR ROOTS, MAN! THEY'RE LIKE THE INVISIBLE MEMBERS OF THE BAND!
THE "WHO MADE WHO" VIDEO IS A HEAVY-ROTATION BREAKTHROUGH ON MTV. IT FEATURES 300 EXTRAS DRESSED LIKE ANGUS YOUNG.
WOW! JUST LIKE THE "LOCK UP YOUR DAUGHTERS" TOUR!?!
IN LATE 1986...
WELL, IT MAY BE JUST A "GREATEST HITS" PACKAGE WITH A FEW NEW CUTS, BUT THE RECORD AND VIDEO ARE DOIN' GREAT!
IT GIVES US A GREAT EXCUSE TO TOUR AMERICA AGAIN! BETTER STRIKE WHILE THE IRON IS HOT!
GOOD GOD, ANGUS YOUNG USING AN AMERICAN CLICHÉ?!
THE VIDEO FOR "SINK THE PINK" IS EQUALLY WELL-RECEIVED.

IN DECEMBER 1987, THEY GO TO MIRAUL STUDIOS IN FRANCE TO RECORD AN ALBUM OF NEW MATERIAL.
TALK ABOUT ATMOSPHERE! THIS OLD STONE BUILDING IS LOADED WITH BATS AND SPIDERS!
I KEEP EXPECTING BELA LUGOSI TO POP OUT OF A COFFIN.
THE ALBUM, "BLOW UP YOUR VIDEO," IS THEIR 12 TH L.P. TO DATE.
OUR ALBUMS HAVE SOLD OVER 13 MILLION COPIES IN AMERICA ALONE!
IF I'M A SUPERSTAR NOW, CAN I BUY A CASTLE ON LOCH NESS NEXT TO JIMMY PAGE?
I'LL SETTLE FOR BUYING HERSHEY PENNSYLVANIA!
VANDA AND YOUNG ARE RECRUITED TO PRODUCE.
NICE TO HAVE YOU BACK ABOARD, GUYS!
WELL, WE ENJOYED "WHO MADE WHO" SO MUCH, WE COULDN'T VERY WELL SAY NO, COULD WE?
"BLOW UP" HITS #2 IN BRITAIN AND #12 IN THE U.S. IN FEBRUARY '88.
AN' ROLLING STONE CALLED US HAS-BEENS.
WELL, CONSIDER THE SOURCE! TALK ABOUT THE POT CALLING THE KETTLE BLACK!
ANOTHER CLICHÉ? WE BEEN SPENDING TOO MUCH TIME IN THE STATES!
"HEATSEEKER," THEIR NEWEST HIT SINGLE, BECOMES THEIR NEWEST VIDEO AS WELL.
THE RECORD COMPANY SAID THE VIDEO IS THE MOST EXPENSIVE ONE EVER MADE.
COULDA FOOLED ME. WE JUST SHOWED UP AND PLAYED.
I'M SURE WE'RE WORTH EVERY PENNY, THOUGH!
THE "BLOW UP YOUR VIDEO" ALBUM IS CERTIFIED PLATINUM WHEN THE BAND MAKES A SURPRISING ANNOUNCEMENT.
AC/DC IS TAKING A VACATION OF SORTS. IN ORDER TO KEEP FROM BURNING OUT, IT'S BEEN MUTUALLY AGREED BETWEEN US TO TAKE A YEAR OR TWO OFF FROM TOURING AND RECORDING.

THUS BEGINS A VOCIFEROUS SPATE OF RUMORS REGARDING THEIR SUPPOSEDLY IMMINENT BREAK-UP.
INDEED, IN MID 1989, DRUMMER SIMON WRIGHT QUITS.
SORRY, BOYS, THE LAYOFF'S KILLIN' MY BANK BOOK. I'M OFF TO JOIN DIO.
AW, YER A COWARD THEN, AREN'T YOU!
HIS REPLACEMENT IS ACE SESSION PLAYER, CHRIS SLADE, FORMERLY WITH THE FIRM.
THE LATEST LINEUP CHANGE IS WELCOME BY ANGUS AND MALCOLM.
THIS GUY'S A MONSTER PLAYER!
GREAT HAIRCUT, TOO!
BRIAN HAS A THING OR TWO TO SAY ABOUT SIMON WRIGHT'S DEPARTURE.
HE'S GONNA FALL FLAT ON HIS FACE. HIS NAME IS DIRT. WHY LEAVE ONE OF THE MOST SUCCESSFUL BANDS ON THE PLANET FOR SOME SLOPPY PRIMA-DONNA'S ONE OFF?
FINALLY, IN MARCH 1990, AFTER EXTENSIVE REHERSALS WITH SLADE, THE GROUP IS READY TO RETURN TO THE STUDIO.
LONG AS WE'RE INFUSIN' FRESH BLOOD, LET'S TRY A NEW PRODUCER.
HARRY AND GEORGE WON'T MIND.
SURE, IN FACT THEY RECOMMENDED A GUY ...BRUCE FAIRBAIRN, THE ONE WHO DID BON JOVI.
IN SEPTEMBER 1990, A NEW STATE-OF-THE-ART PERFORMANCE VIDEO AIRS ON MTV, SHOWCASING A TUNE FROM THE BRAND NEW "RAZOR'S EDGE" ALBUM. YES, ANGUS IS STILL WEARING THE SUIT.
...YEAH, YEAH, THUNDERSTRUCK!
IT'S TOO BLOODY WEIRD, HAVIN' A BLOODY CAMERA STRAPPED TO MY AXE!
WELCOME TO THE NINETIES, ANGUS!
THE NEW ALBUM IS POWERFUL, CLASSIC AC/DC. THOUGH ABSENT FROM THE ROCK SCENE FOR NEARLY TWO YEARS, THEY ARE POISED TO RECLAIM THE SPOTLIGHT AND REGAIN THEIR CROWNS AS THE KINGS OF MACHO PUMP ROCK!
WE'RE BACK IN BLACK, EVERYBODY!
WITH A BLOODY VENGEANCE!
IF YOU'VE GOT AN ARENA IN YOUR TOWN, WE'LL SEE YA SOON!
ROCK AND ROLL!
QUOTABLE QUOTES:
"WE'RE A ROCK AND ROLL BAND. I DON'T WANT TO SEE US EXPERIMENTING WITH SYNTHESIZERS AND DANCE RHYTHMS. THAT WOULD MAKE ME SICK!" - Angus Young
"MOST PEOPLE, WHEN THEY PROGRESS, THEY PROGRESS RIGHT UP THEIR ASSES... WE JUST TRY TO KEEP IT EXCITING." - Malcolm Young

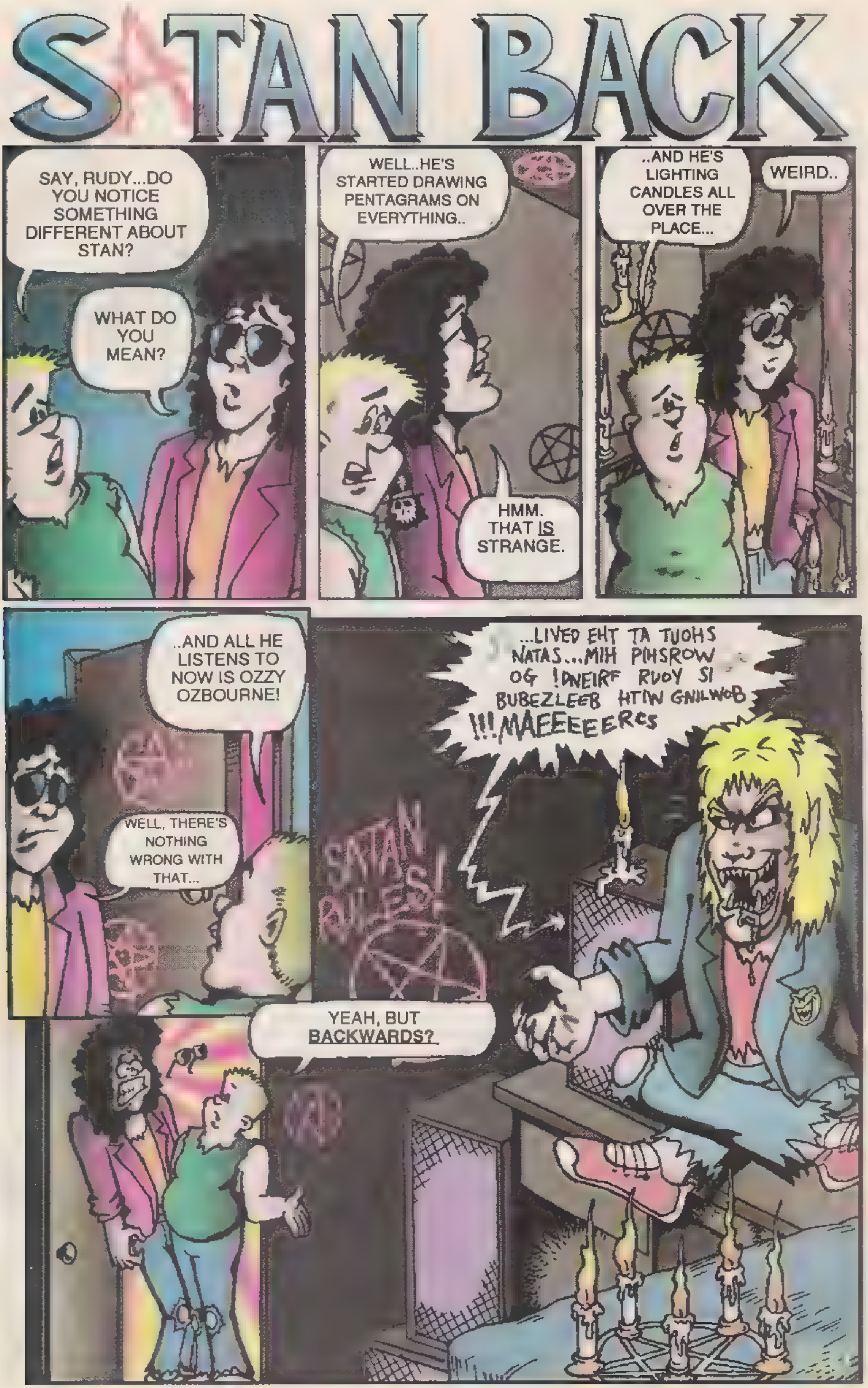
FINIS

HELPING HAND
BY DEAN HSIEH
....AN' NEXT TIME YER START A FIGHT, MAKE DAMN SURE YER CAN FINISH IT!!
BILL 'N TED
BAR 'N GRILL
SMASH!

URGH.... THIS IS PROBABLY PAINFUL IF I'M NOT SO DAMN DRUNK....
JUST WATCH, YOU ASSHOLES! ONE DAY I'LL BE RICH AN' FAMOUS AN'....!
....EMPTY.
AHHHHH!! SHITSHITSHIT SHITSHITSHIT
GREAT, I'M FUCKIN' HOMELESS, JOBLESS, MONEYLESS, GIRLFRIEND-LESS, AND, WORST OF ALL, ALCOHOL-LESS!!
WHAT'S NEXT?! GETTIN' MUGGED AND RAPED?!
UH-OH....

NEED A HAND, MATE?
LOOK, "MATE," I'M FLAT OUT BROKE, HAVEN'T TAKEN A SHOWER FOR WEEKS, AND WHAT I REALLY NEED IS A FUCKIN' DRINK!!
"A FUCKIN' DRINK," HUH? WELL, I WAS JUST LIKE YE A LONG LONG TIME AGO. BETCHA THINK HEAVEN IS GETTING TO DRINK AS MUCH AS YE WANT, AYE? I GOT DAMN LUCKY AND DID JUST THAT: DRANK AS MUCH AS I WANTED EVERY NIGHT. BELIEVE ME, MAN, IT AIN'T NO STAIRWAY TO HEAVEN. ALL YER GET IS A DAMN EXPRESS TICKET TO SOMEWHERE A WHOLE FUCKIN' LOT HOTTER!
I FOUND OUT THE HARD WAY...
....THAT A BOTTLE IS...
...THE SAME AS ANY DRUGS...
...THEY ALL EQUAL ONE THING...

... BUT YOU DON'T CARE, RIGHT? WELL, IT'S NOT UP TO ME TO DECIDE.
YOUR LIFE.
YOUR CHOICE.
CRASH!
COULD YOU PLEASE GIVE ME A HAND, MR.....?
THE NAME'S SCOTT. BON SCOTT.
THE END


SATAN BACK
SAY, RUDY...DO YOU NOTICE SOMETHING DIFFERENT ABOUT STAN?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
WELL..HE'S STARTED DRAWING PENTAGRAMS ON EVERYTHING..
HMM. THAT IS STRANGE.
..AND HE'S LIGHTING CANDLES ALL OVER THE PLACE...
WEIRD..
..AND ALL HE LISTENS TO NOW IS OZZY OZBOURNE!
WELL, THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH THAT...
...LIVED EHT TA TUOHS NATAS...MIH PIHSROW OG !DNEIRF RUOY SI BUBEZLEEB HTIW GNILWOB !!!MAEEEEERCS
SATAN RULES!
YEAH, BUT BACKWARDS?

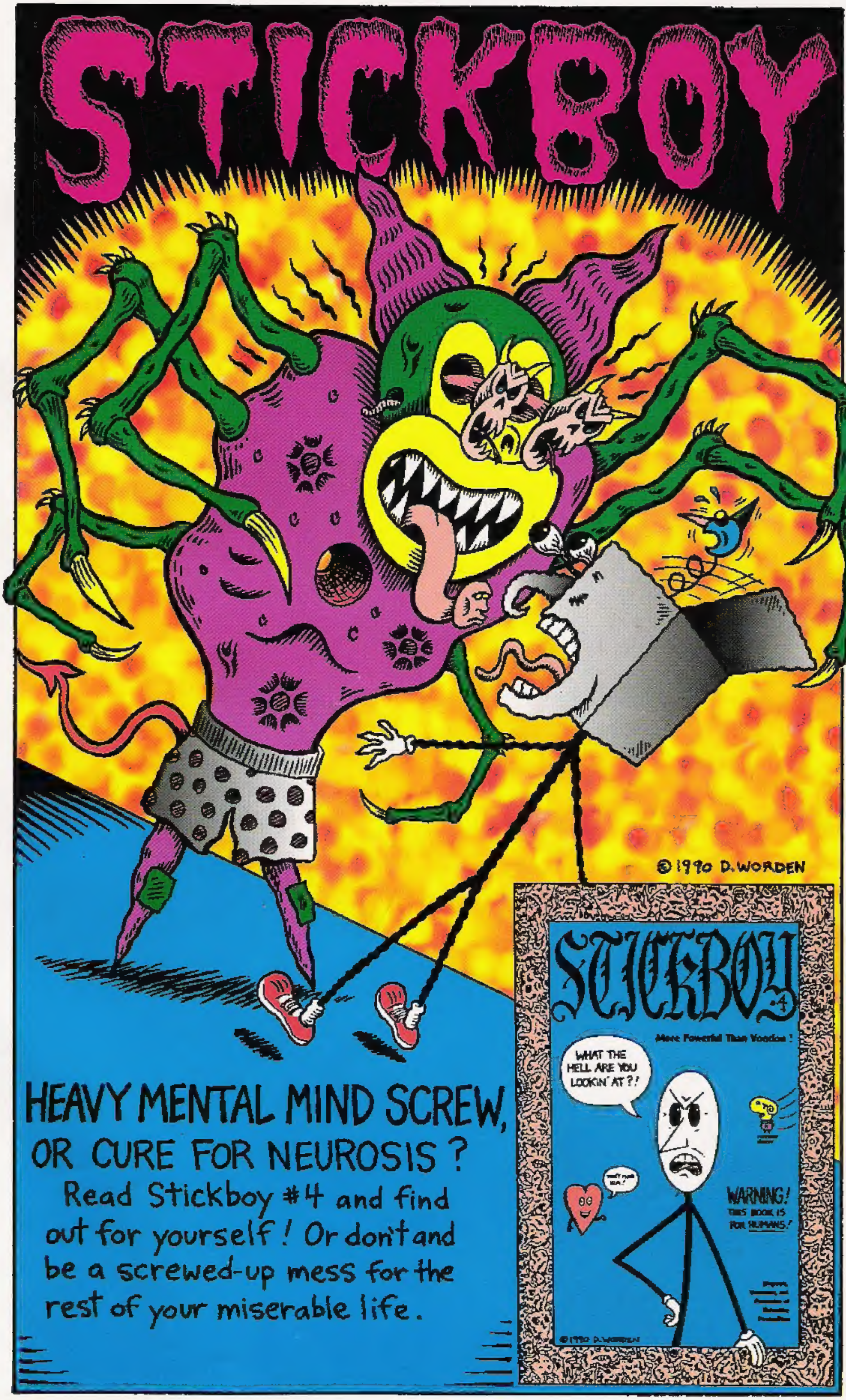
Stan Back!

By Loren & Friedman

ONLY ONE THING CAN SCARE THE DEVIL OUT OF A ROCK MUSICIAN...
"THE ANTITHESIS OF ALL ROCK AND ROLL..."
GREATE HITS
BARRY MANILOW!
YAAAAAAARRGH!
HEY! WHERE AM I? WHO'S THE PUKE-FACE?
STAN'S BACK!
EPILOGUE
WHAT'S WRONG? STANS NOT POSESSED AGAIN, IS HE?
NO! IT'S SOMETHING WORSE!
MUCH, MUCH WORSE!!
AT THE COPA...COPA CABANNA...

STAN BACK

By Todd Loren & Mike Friedman



STICKBOY
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STICKBOY #4
More Powerful Than Voodoo!
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU LOOKIN' AT?!
WARNING! THIS BOOK IS FOR HUMANS!
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HEAVY MENTAL MIND SCREW,
OR CURE FOR NEUROSIS?
Read Stickboy #4 and find out for yourself! Or don't and be a screwed-up mess for the rest of your miserable life.